



President Barack Obama shakes hands with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in The Oval Office at the White House in Washington, April 14, 2015. A major priority for the prime minister is laying the groundwork for financial support to help the Iraqi government as it struggles to take back territory from the Islamic State. (Zach Gibson/The New York Times) Page 4

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Obama to remove Cuba from state sponsor of terror list



White House press secretary Josh Earnest speaks during the daily news briefing at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Earnest discussed Obama's actions to remove Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism, and other topics. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama will remove Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism, the White House announced Tuesday, a key step in his bid to normalize relations between the two countries.

The terror designation has been a stain on Cuba's pride and a major stumbling block for efforts to mend ties between Washington and Havana.

In a message to Congress, Obama said the government of Cuba "has not provided any support for international terrorism" over the last six months. He also told lawmakers that Cuba "has provided assurances that it will not support acts of international terrorism in the future."

Cuba will officially be removed from the terror list 45 days after the president's message was sent to Congress. Lawmakers could vote to block the move during that window, though Obama would be all-but-certain to veto such a measure.

Tuesday's announcement comes days after Obama and Cuban

President Raul Castro met on the sidelines of a regional summit in Panama. The historic talks marked the first formal meeting between the leaders of their countries in a half-century.

The U.S. has long since stopped actively accusing Cuba of supporting terrorism. When Obama and Castro announced a thaw in relations in December, the U.S. president expressed his willingness to remove Cuba from that list.

However, he held off on making a final decision amid indications that the White House was reluctant to grant Cuba's request until other thorny issues — such as restrictions on U.S. diplomats in Havana — were resolved. The president's final decision followed a State Department review of Cuba's presence on the list.

Removing Cuba from the terror list could pave the way for the opening of a U.S. Embassy in Havana and other steps. Administration officials said they were optimistic about the prospects of opening the embassy, but did not provide any specific updates in timing.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said that taking Cuba off the terror list does not change the fact that

the U.S. has differences with the island nation's government.

"Our concerns over a wide range of Cuba's policies and actions fall outside the criteria that is relevant to whether to rescind Cuba's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism," Earnest said.

Until Tuesday, the communist island nation remained one of four countries on the U.S. list of nations accused

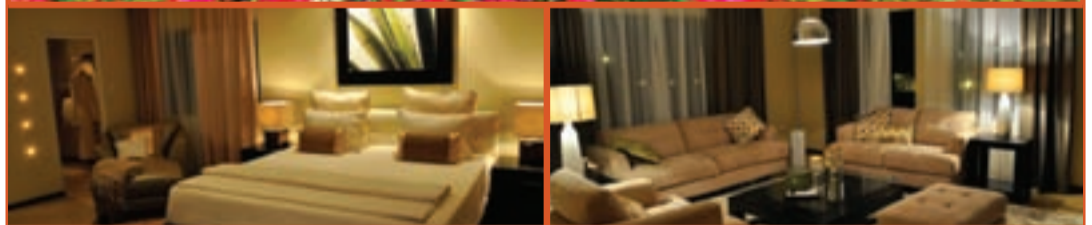
of repeatedly supporting global terrorism. The others are Iran, Sudan and Syria.

Cuba was designated a state sponsor of terror in 1982 because of what the White House said was its efforts "to promote armed revolution by organizations that used terrorism."

Those efforts included support for leftist guerrilla groups in Central and South America that carried out attacks on civilians in their efforts to

overthrow U.S.-backed governments.

State Department reports on the terror list specifically mention Cuba sheltering members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, and the Spanish Basque separatist group ETA. Cuba renounced its direct support for foreign militants years ago, and is sponsoring peace talks between the FARC and Colombian government. □

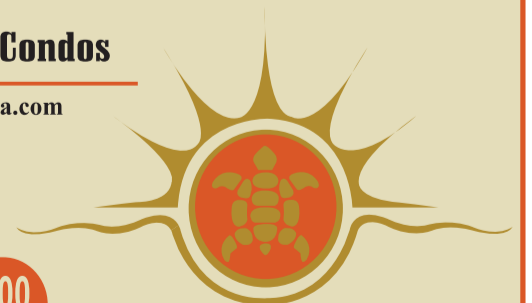


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Obama Gives Iraqi Premier Aid, Strong Endorsement

**PETER BAKER
MICHAEL R. GORDON**
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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama gave Haider al-Abadi, the prime minister of Iraq, a full-throated endorsement and \$200 million in humanitarian aid Tuesday,

but the visiting leader left the White House still in need of billions more dollars to cope with plunging oil prices and a yawning budget deficit.

After a long meeting that touched on war and sectarian divisions, Obama publicly credited al-Abadi with helping to turn the tide in the battle against the Islamic State extremists who seized much of his country last year and expressed confidence that the new

Shiite-led government in Baghdad was doing more to include Sunni and Kurdish minorities.

"Although there is the natural back-and-forth that exists in any democracy, Prime Minister Abadi has kept true to his commitments to reach out to them and to respond to their concerns and to make sure that power is not solely concentrated within Baghdad," Obama told reporters with al-Abadi seated next to him in the Oval Office. He called al-Abadi "a strong partner" who has "gained the respect of other leaders in the region."

In recognition of the civilian damage wrought by recent fighting around Tikrit and elsewhere, Obama committed \$200 million to

"help stabilize communities and to help those who have been displaced from their homes, have lost their jobs, have seen their property destroyed."

But that represented only a small fraction of what al-Abadi came to Washington seeking to secure. The prime minister plans to meet Thursday with Christine Lagarde, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, and with Jim Yong Kim, the president of the World Bank. He also plans to meet with senior executives from oil companies and international banks, including Citibank and Deutsche Bank. Iraq is facing a budget deficit this year of \$22 billion, a sizable gap in a total budget of \$105 billion. Oil rev-



Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi and President Barack Obama fix their suit jackets as they finish their meeting in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, April 14, 2015. The Prime Minister's visit is to discuss U.S.-Iraq policy and the fight against the IS group.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

enue, which accounts for a vast majority of government income, has declined at the same time that the Iraqi government is facing the challenge of restoring essential services and rebuilding towns and cities damaged in the fighting against the Islamic State. Iraqi officials are counting on substantial international support. That includes the ability to draw on more than \$2.4 billion in the cur-

rencies of some of the strongest members of the IMF and \$2 billion in assistance from the World Bank. Iraq would also like to obtain substantial loan guarantees from the Export-Import Bank of the United States to finance the purchase of Boeing planes for Iraqi Airways.

Al-Abadi, who became prime minister in September, has appealed for economic support before. □

White House indicates Obama will sign a compromise Iran bill

**DEB RIECHMANN
LAURIE KELLMAN**
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) —

President Barack Obama bowed to pressure on Tuesday and agreed to sign legislation giving Congress the right to reject any nuclear agreement with Iran. The White House conveyed the president's decision shortly before Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approved a compromise version of the measure on

a 19-0 vote. It was a sign that Congress would not back down on its insistence that lawmakers must have a say if any final deal with Iran involves the eventual lifting of crippling economic sanctions that Congress levied on Tehran.

The bill is now likely to clear both houses in the Republican-controlled Congress. Obama had threatened to veto the original bill, but as news of the compromise leaked out on Capitol Hill, the White House abruptly acquiesced. □

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Accuser testifies at East Hamptons home rape trial



Former New York City investment banker Jason Lee walks with his wife Alicia into Suffolk County Court in Riverhead, N.Y. Lee faces charges he raped a woman from Ireland that he took home after celebrating his birthday at a Hamptons nightclub. He pleaded not guilty and is free on \$100,000 bail. He has opted for a non-jury trial before Suffolk County Court Judge Barbara Kahn.

(AP Photo/Frank Eltman)

FRANK ELTMAN
Associated Press
RIVERHEAD, New York (AP)

— An Irish tourist who said a former New York City investment banker raped her at his East Hampton rental home two summers ago testified Tuesday that she used “every ounce of strength I had in me” trying to fend off the alleged attack.

The woman fought back tears on Tuesday, refusing to look at the defendant as she testified at the trial of Jason Lee, a former Goldman Sachs managing director. The Associated

Press does not identify victims of alleged sexual assault.

Lee, 38, has pleaded not guilty to raping the woman after meeting her and a group of friends at a Hamptons nightclub while celebrating his birthday in August 2013. Lee, who left Goldman Sachs last year, is free on \$100,000 bail.

The non-jury trial has attracted international attention, with media from Ireland and elsewhere chronicling the trial, which began last week.

The woman testified that she drank about “six or

seven” vodka drinks at the nightclub, and said when the club was closing around 4 a.m., she and her group, which included her brother, accepted a ride from Lee and one of his friends back to the vacation home Lee and his wife had rented in East Hampton. Lee’s wife was at the couple’s Manhattan home during the night of partying, authorities said.

She testified that while she was using the bathroom, a naked Lee forced his way in, knocking her to the ground as she fought to keep the door shut. She

said he jumped on top of her and sexually assaulted her, at one point putting his hand over her mouth and telling her to be quiet. “He pulled up my dress and pulled off my underwear,” the woman testified.

She said she eventually was able to force the assault to end: “With every ounce of strength I had in me I kneed him in the groin.”

Lee’s attorney, Andrew

Lankler, has said the sex was consensual. Lankler has said photographs taken after the arrest prove that it was not a sexual assault because Lee “doesn’t have a scratch on him. Not a mark.”

A Goldman Sachs spokesman said Lee left the firm sometime last year; he had worked in the equity capital markets department. His current employment status was not clear. □

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Durst pleads not guilty to weapons charge

J. McCONNAUGHEY
Associated Press
NEW ORLEANS (AP)

— Jailed millionaire Robert Durst pleaded not guilty Tuesday to the newest charge against him: a federal charge of possessing a gun after a felony conviction.

U.S. District Judge Lance Africk set a trial date for June 22 before Judge Helen “Ginger” Berrigan.

Durst’s defense team is also adding David Chesnoff, whose celebrity clients have included Motley Crue singer Vince Neil, pop singer Bruno Mars, boxer

Mike Tyson, and businesswoman Martha Stewart. Motions filed Tuesday ask permission for him to represent Durst in federal district court.

Durst is an estranged member of the wealthy family that operates 1 World Trade Center. □

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Atlanta school workers sentenced in test score cheating case

RICHARD FAUSSET
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ATLANTA - Rejecting sentencing deals urged by the judge, eight of the 10 educators convicted of racketeering in a huge public school cheating scandal were given stiff prison terms Tuesday, the latest chapter in a case that has gripped the Atlanta region and has raised questions nationally about the use of standardized testing. Despite emotional pleas for leniency, Judge Jerry W. Baxter of Fulton County Superior Court imposed sentencing ranging from one to seven years, with three high-level administrators getting the longer prison terms. The sentences appeared to be more harsh than educators convicted of similar in-

cidents elsewhere and exceeded what criminals can get for some violent crimes. "I wish that it had been different," the district attorney, Paul L. Howard Jr., said Tuesday, adding that he was "frustrated" and "disappointed" that more of the educators had not accepted deals. Sentencing had been expected Monday, but after spending most of the day listening to character witnesses - friends and family members - Baxter asked prosecutors and defense lawyers to try to work out agreements. In the end, only two accepted sentencing deals. One, Donald Bullock, a testing coordinator, was ordered to spend six months of weekends in county jail and five

years on probation. He was fined \$5,000 and ordered to do 1,500 hours of community service. The other, Pame-

harrowing and interrelated questions: How much mercy is due to an all-black roster of educators with otherwise

were sure the convictions would eventually be vacated. "The sentence is fair," said Gerald A. Griggs, who



Angela Williamson, a former Dobbs Elementary teacher, leaves the courtroom following her sentencing for racketeering charges in a test-cheating scandal in Atlanta, April 14, 2015. Eight of 10 former Atlanta public school educators were ordered on Tuesday to serve between one and seven years in prison. (Kent D. Johnson/The New York Times)

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la Cleveland, received five years' probation and one year of home confinement in the evenings, as well as a \$1,000 fine and 1,000 hours of community service. Among those declining deals were three higher-level administrators: Sharon Davis-Williams, Michael Pitts and Tamara Cotman, all regional directors. An irate Baxter sentenced each of them to 20 years, with seven to be served in prison and the remainder on probation. Each must pay a \$25,000 fine and perform 2,000 hours of community service. The judge ordered all of the educators freed on bond from county jail, where they had been since their conviction. Several defendants on Tuesday vowed to appeal their convictions, ensuring that Atlanta, a majority-black city, would continue to grapple with two

spotless records? And what kind of justice is due to the thousands of mostly poor, minority students whose falsely inflated standardized test scores obscured their need for extra help? "We've sent a horrible message about character in education," Bernice King, the daughter of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said at a news conference called by prosecutors, in which she exhorted residents to pray for the defendants' families. "The balance between justice and mercy is always weighed in my heart." The deals offered to the 10 defendants by the Fulton County District Attorney's office were predicated on their admission of responsibility and the waiver of their right to appeal. Most of the defendants found the terms unacceptable, and lawyers for some clients said they

represented a teacher, Angela Williamson, who was ordered to serve two years in prison. "The fact that she only got two years in custody, that's fair considering what the jury's decision was, but we still respectfully disagree with it, and we will be successful on appeal." The others who declined deals were also given various levels of fines and community service. They included a principal, Dana Evans, who received a five-year sentence - a year in prison and four years of probation; Tabeeka Jordan, an assistant principal who received two years in prison and three years' probation; Diane Buckner-Webb, a teacher who received one year in prison and four years' probation; and Theresia Copeland, a testing coordinator, who received one year in prison and four years' probation. □



US Financial Front:

American retail sales heat up; has the big thaw arrived?

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans increased their spending on autos, furniture, clothing and building materials in March, lifting retail sales for the first time in four months. Retail sales jumped 0.9 percent last month, after declining 0.5 percent in February, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. The rebound suggests that shoppers are returning after an unseasonably cold winter froze sales.

Warmer weather fueled a 2.7 percent increase in auto sales and a 2.1 percent boost in building materials, possible signs that the lagging manufacturing and construction sectors might also recover from a winter slump.

Excluding the volatile categories of autos, gas, building materials and restaurants, sales rose 0.3 percent.

Economists say that sales should continue to climb because of the yearlong hiring surge and lower gasoline prices.

The unemployment rate has tumbled to 5.5 percent, as the economy has added jobs at a monthly pace of roughly 261,000 during the past year. That amounts to 3.1 million new paychecks to be spent at restaurants, clothiers and elsewhere.

At the same time, gas has tumbled to \$2.39 a gallon, a \$1.30 cheaper than a year ago, according to AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge. That should translate into consumers saving an average of \$700 compared to 2014, according to government



Women enter a high end fashion store on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, Calif. The Commerce Department released retail sales data for March on Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

(AP Photo/Richard Vogel)

estimates.

The harsh winter curtailed some of the lift provided by lower unemployment rates and gas prices. People curtailed their visits to malls, auto dealers and open houses, which accompanied a slump in the manufacturing and construction sectors.

But the March sales figure point to stronger months ahead now that winter is in the rearview mirror.

"Together with the continued buildup of cash savings from the drop in gas prices, this suggests to us that we should expect very strong retail sales numbers over the next few months," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

Clothing purchases rose 1.2 percent and furniture buying increased 1.4 percent. Restaurant spending has edged up just 0.7 percent in March, but it has jumped 7.7 percent over the past 12 months. Spending de-

clined at electronics stores and gas stations last month, potentially signaling that cheaper prices at the pump are not causing people to drive more miles.

Another seasonal factor may have been at play. Easter was 15 days earlier this year compared to 2014, which might have pulled spending forward.

Still, retail spending remains somewhat subdued. Many Americans have qualms about going on a shopping spree when the wounds from the housing bust and 2008 financial crisis — the most devastating economic downturn in 80 years — are still healing.

In some cases, skeptical consumers are simply awaiting proof that gas prices will stay low. Americans since January have begun to expect inflation to rise, suggesting that doubts remain about whether they will actually enjoy the projected savings, Deutsche Bank economist Joseph LaVor-

gna wrote recently.

Economists also say that the benefits from cheaper gas accrue slowly over time. As a result, changes in behavior are often seen only after three to six months.

The monthly retail sales report is closely watched because it provides the first indication each month of Americans' willingness to spend. Consumer spending drives 70 percent of the economy. Yet retail sales account for only about one-third of spending, with services such as haircuts and Internet connections mak-

ing up the other two-thirds. Overall consumer spending ticked up just 0.1 percent in February, the Commerce Department recently reported.

But this is because many Americans are choosing to save their money. Income growth outpaced that modest increase in spending, rising a solid 0.4 percent in February. Because more Americans were stockpiling their incomes, the savings rate increased to 5.8 percent of after-tax income, the highest level since December 2012. □

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Labor Secretary Thomas Perez speaks at Gallaudet University in Washington. Brokers who manage Americans' retirement accounts may soon be required to put investors' interests first under new restrictions proposed by the U.S. government. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

Government proposes rules for brokers on retirement accounts

MARCY GORDON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Brokers who manage Americans' retirement accounts may soon be required to put investors' interests first under new restrictions proposed by the U.S. government.

The Labor Department on Tuesday opened the rules to public comment for 75 days. The Obama administration has put its weight behind the move. Against a backdrop of intense opposition from the financial industry on an earlier proposal, administration officials took pains to reassure the industry that the new framework wouldn't end the way brokers do business or prohibit them from receiving commissions or other fees.

The proposal would provide "guardrails but not strait jackets" for protecting Americans' retirement investments, Labor Secretary Thomas Perez said in a conference call with re-

porters.

The changes would put brokers — who sell stocks, bonds, annuities and other investments — under the stricter requirements for registered financial advisers.

Fierce debate and lobbying over the proposal is expected.

The stricter rules could alter the types of investments a broker recommends to you for your retirement account. Their advice could move away from riskier investments. And a broker will have to tell you when they have a conflict of interest regarding a financial product — like receiving fees — that could prevent them from putting your interest first in recommending it.

A legally binding contract with customers would require brokers to act in their best financial interest. Officials said brokers would have "flexibility" in how they're paid, so long as they exercise a fiduciary

duty toward their clients. If an investor believed that their broker or investment adviser violated the contract, he or she would be entitled to pursue action in arbitration.

Fiduciaries, such as doctors or lawyers, are obligated to put their clients' interests first.

Brokers buy and sell securities and other financial products on behalf of their clients. They also can give financial advice, with one key requirement. They must recommend only "suitable" investments based on the client's finances, their age and how much risk is appropriate for him or her. So they can't pitch penny stocks or real estate investment trusts to an 85-year-old woman living on a pension, for example. But brokers can nudge clients toward a mutual fund or variable annuity that pays the broker a higher commission — without telling the client. Brokers don't have to disclose that po-

US prescription drug spending jumped 13% in 2014, IMS says

LINDA A. JOHNSON
Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — U.S. spending on prescription drugs soared last year, driven up primarily by costly breakthrough medicines, manufacturer price hikes and a surge from millions of people newly insured due to the Affordable Care Act.

Spending rose 13 percent, the biggest jump since 2001, to a total of \$374 billion, according to a report released Tuesday by the IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics. After accounting for population growth and inflation, the increase equaled 10 percent.

A record 4.3 billion prescriptions were filled in 2014, many of them for inexpensive generic pills going to patients now insured through Medicaid in states that expanded eligibility for the government health program for the poor and disabled. The number of prescriptions covered by Medicaid rose by nearly 17 percent, and that increase accounted for 70 percent of growth in the number of prescriptions filled at retail pharmacies. Another sign of the Affordable Care Act's impact was that prescriptions paid for in cash, normally filled by uninsured people, declined 5.5 percent.

The higher spending, though, was mostly due to the many recent drugs with eye-popping price tags: tens of thousands of dollars for a year or course of treatment. Last year saw an unusually high 42 novel medicines launched, 18 for rare diseases, those that affect fewer than 200,000 Americans. Ten of the new drugs were designated as breakthrough therapies, for conditions including multiple sclerosis, various cancers and hepatitis C.

"2014 was a remarkable year," Murray Aitken, executive director of the IMS Institute, told The Associated Press. "We're probably not going to see it again."

Altogether, spending on prescription medicines in the U.S. rose by \$43.4 billion last year, including about \$10 billion due to price increases and \$20.3 billion spent on prescriptions for new drugs.

That included a combined \$11.3 billion spent on just four new medicines for hepatitis C, a liver-damaging virus so tough to eliminate that until recently, patients had to endure flu-like symptoms and other awful side effects for nearly a year, yet barely 60 percent were cured. The new hepatitis C treatments cure upwards of 90 percent, usually in 12 weeks. However, they carry list prices of \$84,000 or more for a course of treatment. One of them, Sovaldi, was launched at the end of 2013 yet was the top-selling drug last year. It brought maker Gilead Sciences Inc. \$7.9 billion.

"Sovaldi is a record-breaker in so many ways," Aitken said, yet Gilead's successor drug launched last fall, Harvoni, has already surpassed it in sales.

Specialty medicines — drugs for complex, chronic and often expensive disorders including hepatitis C — last year accounted for a full third of prescription spending. That's a likely harbinger of even higher prescription spending in the future. □

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Iran expects delivery of Russian missiles by end of the year



A Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missile system is on display at an undisclosed location in Russia. The Kremlin says Russia has lifted its ban on the delivery of a sophisticated air defense missile system to Iran. Russia said Tuesday that it would be at least six months before it could deliver the S-300 air defense missile system to Iran, but the Kremlin confirmed that a barter deal to supply Russian goods in exchange for Iranian oil was already being implemented. (AP Photo/File)

LYNN BERRY
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia said Tuesday that it would be at least six months before

it could deliver the S-300 air defense missile system to Iran, but the Kremlin confirmed that a barter deal to supply Rus-

sian goods in exchange for Iranian oil was already being implemented. Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed his move

in a phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, telling him that Israel shouldn't be worried about the "purely defensive" weapon.

The United States criticized Putin's decision on Monday to lift a five-year ban on delivery of the missile system, which would give the Islamic republic's military a strong deterrent against any air attack.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest also said a Russian-Iranian barter deal would raise serious concerns and could interfere with sanctions that the United States and other Western nations imposed on Iran over its nuclear program.

On Tuesday, Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, confirmed statements by a Russian diplomat that Russia already was supplying Iran with various goods in exchange for oil. Peskov said this trade was not barred under the sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security

Council.

Back in 2010, Russia had linked its decision to freeze the S-300 delivery to the U.N. sanctions, but Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov argued on Monday that the decision was taken voluntarily as part of efforts to encourage progress in talks.

After Russia suspended delivery, Iran accused Russia of breach of contract and filed a lawsuit with a court in Geneva seeking \$4 billion in damages.

Ali Shamkhani, who heads Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said Tuesday in Moscow that the lawsuit would be withdrawn only after delivery of the S-300s, which he said Iran expected to happen by the end of the year, Russian news agencies reported.

His Russian counterpart, Nikolai Patrushev, said delivery would depend on the manufacturers. "I believe they will need at least six months to complete this work," he told the Interfax news agency. □

Fighting rages in Ukraine despite talks

INNA VARENYTSIA
Associated Press

SHYROKYNE, Ukraine (AP) — Fighting raged overnight and in the early hours on Tuesday on the outskirts of the rebel stronghold of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine despite an agreement reached by the Ukrainian and Russian foreign ministers a day earlier. The yearlong military conflict between Russian-backed rebels and government forces has claimed more than 6,000 lives and left large parts of Ukraine's once industrial heartland in ruins.

Fighting in the east had largely subsided following a cease-fire deal signed in February but has rekindled

in recent days.

Heavy shelling was heard in Donetsk late Monday evening and in the early hours on Tuesday. Ukrainian military spokesman Andriy Lysenko told a televised briefing that six troops were killed and 12 wounded in a 24-hour period, while rebels reported one fighter dead and five wounded in the overnight clashes. The death toll is the highest since the February cease-fire was signed.

Lysenko also reported civilian casualties, including two teenagers who were wounded in shelling in the Horlivka area, north of Donetsk.

Russia and Ukraine agreed in Berlin on Monday to call

for the pullback of smaller-caliber weapons from the front lines of the conflict that has claimed more than 6,000 lives.

On the ground, however, even the previous agreement that called for a cease-fire and a withdrawal of large-caliber weaponry appeared to be shaky. The U.S. State Department supports the steps taken in Berlin, spokeswoman Marie Harf said Tuesday, but she also voiced concern about the ongoing fighting.

"The Russian-backed separatists continue to take aggressive action in Ukraine," she said. "And the Russian-backed separatists continue to stall Minsk implementation." □

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Attacks kill 28 in and around Baghdad

S. SALAHEDDIN
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — A wave of attacks in and around Baghdad on Tuesday killed at least 28 people as Iraqi security forces repelled an attack by the extremist Islamic State group on the country's largest oil refinery, officials said.

The attacks came as Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi met with President Barack Obama in Washington and appealed for greater support from the U.S.-led coalition carrying out airstrikes against IS militants who captured a third of both Iraq and neighboring Syria in a blitz last year. Obama pledged \$200 million in U.S. humanitarian aid to Iraq to help those displaced by Islamic State attacks — an offer of assistance that appeared to fall short of the Iraqi prime minister's request for greater

military support.

The Islamic State group and other Sunni extremists carry out near-daily attacks targeting Iraq's security forces and the country's Shiite majority.

The deadliest of Tuesday's attacks came at night, when a car bomb explosion at a commercial street killed eight people, including two women, and wounded 21 in eastern Baghdad, police said.

Earlier in the day, seven people were killed when a car bomb exploded in a commercial area in the town of Mahmoudiyah, about 30 kilometers (20 miles) south of Baghdad, a police officer said. The car was parked in a mainly Shiite section of the town near a bakery and went off as people were standing in line to buy bread.

Thirteen civilians were wounded in that attack,

the officer said.

In the afternoon, two car bombs went off simultaneously in Baghdad's south-eastern outskirts, in al-Wihda area, killing six civilians and wounding 13, another police officer said. One of the cars was parked in a commercial area while the second was in a nearby parking lot. Another car bomb exploded in a parking lot outside Baghdad's Yarmouk hospital on Tuesday morning, killing four civilians and wounding 10, police said. Three more civilians were killed and eight wounded when a bomb ripped through an outdoor market in Baghdad's northern Sabi al-Bor area, police added. Medical officials in nearby hospitals confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release information. □

Yemen al-Qaida branch claims top cleric killed in drone attack

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Yemen's al-Qaida branch announced on Tuesday that its top cleric, a Saudi-national who has had a \$5 million bounty on his head, has been killed, allegedly in a drone attack.

Al-Qaida said in a statement posted on Twitter that Ibrahim al-Rubaish was killed by a drone late on Sunday, along with other, unnamed members of the group. The statement did not specify the location of the drone attack.

Yemeni officials had no immediate comment on the claim and the White House declined to comment.

Al-Rubaish, believed to be in his late 30s, was released from Guantanamo Bay in 2006, after which he joined al-Qaida in Yemen. He was considered the group's the main ideologue and theological adviser and his writings and sermons were prominent in its publications.

Last year, he hailed the seizure of large swaths of land in Iraq and Syria by al-Qaida's rival, the Islamic State group. "I ask God that efforts are united to target the enemies of the religion," he said in a video recording at the time. If the drone attack is confirmed, it would be the first use of unmanned aircraft since Yemen sank further into turmoil last month, prompting a Saudi-led coalition to launch airstrikes on March 26 in an attempt to halt Yemen's Shiite rebels known as Houthis who have taken over much of the country.

The Houthi advance has also forced Yemen's Western-backed President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to flee the country as his government crumbled.

U.S. officials have said that the collapse of Hadi's government could undermine Washington's counterterrorism strategy against al-Qaida's branch in Yemen, known as Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. Washington considers the branch to be the most powerful in the terrorist network. In late March, about 100 U.S. military advisers withdrew from the al-Annad air base where they had been leading the U.S. counterterrorism efforts in Yemen. Washington rarely comments on drone attacks. U.S. officials had been concerned their counterterrorism capabilities would be diminished because of the withdrawal of their staff. However, they also said the al-Qaida branch will likely be drawn toward the internal Yemeni conflict, and away from plotting to go after Western targets.

Al-Qaida is a staunch rival of the Shiite rebels, and has already waged a number of attacks against their advances. U.S. officials also said that CIA drone strikes would continue but that there will be fewer of them. After Tuesday's al-Qaida statement, a U.S. official said that since the pullout of U.S. special forces from Yemen, the United States maintains the ability to conduct counterterrorism operations inside Yemen. □



People and security forces gather at the scene of a car bomb explosion in a parking lot outside Yarmouk hospital in western Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Car bombs went off Tuesday morning in and around the Iraqi capital, killing and wounding civilians, officials said.

(AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)



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A year after kidnap of schoolgirls in Nigeria, hope dwindles



Young girls known as Chibok Ambassadors, carry placards bearing the names of the girls kidnapped from the government secondary school in Chibok, a year ago, during a demonstration, in Abuja, Nigeria, Tuesday, April 14, 2015. (AP Photo/Sunday Alamba)

MICHELLE FAUL
Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — They have been gone a year now, the hundreds of girls abducted by Islamic militants from their school in northeastern Nigeria. And while the cry to "Bring Back Our Girls" remains a worldwide cause, the new president Tuesday would not repeat his predecessor's failed promise to find them — only that they won't be forgotten. A solemn march was held to remember the 219 girls seized from their boarding school in Chibok by gunmen from the Boko Haram extremist group. In Nigeria's capital of Abuja, 219 girls paraded in the streets, with each carrying a placard bearing the name of a kidnap victim. "We believe the girls are still alive," said Dr. Allan Manasseh, the brother of missing 18-year-old Maryamu Wavi, in an interview with The Associated Press. But it was clear that hope has dwindled a year after

the April 14-15 mass abduction. President-elect Muhammadu Buhari said he must be honest about the prospects of getting the missing girls back to their families. "We do not know if the Chibok girls can be rescued. Their whereabouts remain unknown," Buhari said in a statement. "As much as I wish to, I cannot promise that we can find them." The statement by Buhari, a former military ruler of Nigeria who was elected last month and takes over May 29, is a marked departure from President Goodluck Jonathan. After Jonathan's administration initially denied there had even been a kidnapping, he made repeated hollow promises that the girls would be rescued. Campaigners have replaced the slogan of "Bring Back Our Girls — Now and Alive!" with a new one: "Never to be forgotten." Still, some of the marchers Tuesday held the new

leadership accountable. "We are here to appeal to the government to do better. We want our girls now and alive," said Solamipe Onifade, 16. A vigil was held after sundown, with people holding candles and singing. The gunmen initially seized 276 girls, but several dozen managed to escape as the militants transported them to the Sambisa Forest, with some clinging to the branches of trees from a moving open-back truck. Those still missing may have been split up. Witnesses said some girls were taken across the border into Cameroon. Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau, claimed they had converted to Islam and been married off to his fighters. A negotiator said that at least three died in the early days, from a snake bite, malaria and dysentery. Then, Jonathan refused to negotiate with Boko Haram, who were offering to exchange the girls for

detained insurgents. The girls became the focus of a global campaign soon after their abduction. U.S. first lady Michelle Obama had said she was "outraged and heartbroken" about the kidnapping and also posted a picture of herself holding a sign reading "#BringBackOurGirls" on her official Twitter account in May 2014. At least 2,000 women and girls have been abducted by Boko Haram since 2014, forced to become sex slaves and fighters, Amnesty International said Tuesday. Unknown hundreds of boys and young men also have been kidnapped and forced to fight for Boko Haram. Those who refuse are killed. White House press secre-

tary Josh Earnest said the U.S. has helped Nigerian security forces counter the threat by Boko Haram and also helped look for the kidnapped girls. "Unfortunately, this kind of kidnapping story is one that is becoming all too familiar in Nigeria," Earnest said. "We continue to be very concerned about that and we continue to be supportive of the efforts of Nigerians to counter the depraved tactics that are employed by Boko Haram," he said. Earnest added that the U.S. is engaged in a "substantial number of operations to try to address the many needs of the Nigerian people, particularly as they try to counter the threat that's posed by Boko Haram." □

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Cuba fights anger with reform in country's east

M. WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Cuba (AP) — Two and a half years after Hurricane Sandy trashed Cuba's second-largest city, 35-year-old Melba Martinez is still out of work and struggling to feed two children on her state ration book and a daily hustle for extra rice or cooking oil.

"There's no work, no money," Martinez said, her voice rising in fury. "How are you going to buy a pair of shoes that cost \$20? If you buy them, you don't eat. If you eat, you go barefoot."

Down the hill in the pastel-tinted colonial center of Santiago, Josefina Arocha Saco pours thickening, sugary milk through a soft-serve ice cream machine made of an old air-conditioner, a pan from a cafeteria steam table and a handmade metal drive-shaft. If enough schoolchildren spend 4 cents on ice-cream, she can cover the costs of her government license and taxes, and make more in private business than she used to earn as a teacher.

"There used to be very little here," Arocha said. "It's more open, more free ... Now everyone can get a license."

Far from the tourist boom and foreign investment

bounty of Havana, residents of eastern Cuba are struggling with the country's sputtering economy, some faring better than others in a region that is poorer and more isolated than the bustling capital. While many from Santiago have opened businesses under the economic re-

forms of the last four years, the city is largely removed from the big-spending foreigners and wealthy Cuban-Americans whose cash is cascading through private businesses, from high-end restaurants to spas and spinning classes, for a growing class of

wealthy locals. It's easier to get from Havana to Miami than to the island's second-largest city, which has just two overbooked flights a day and trains that are achingly slow and unpredictable. There are more horse-drawn carts and bicycles than cars and gleam-



A man wears a shirt with a U.S. flag design in Santiago, Cuba. It's easier to get from Havana to Miami than to the island's second-largest city, which has just two overbooked flights a day and trains that are achingly slow and unpredictable. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

ing Chinese-made tourist buses on the tooth-rattling two-lane road from Havana to Santiago. Far fewer people get remittances from family overseas. Residents of eastern Cuba, more heavily Afro-Cuban than the west, keep migrating in large numbers

to find work in the capital. In Santiago, cellphones remain a rare luxury. Internet is available to the public in just a handful of locations in the metropolis of 500,000 people. Residents of Havana, a city only four times larger, have dozens of places to get online, albeit at some of

the world's slowest speeds and highest prices. Cubans across the country complain about low salaries and high prices, but there's an uncommon anger in the voices of many like Martinez in Santiago. □

Continued on Page 27

CARIBBEAN News Briefs

Cayman residents find large cocaine haul on the beach

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP) — Police say nearly two dozen packages of cocaine have washed up on a beach in the Cayman Islands. The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service said Tuesday that a bag containing 23 packages of cocaine was spotted by residents along the southeast coast of Grand Cayman island. Police estimated the value of the recovered drugs at roughly \$425,000. In a statement, police in the tiny British Caribbean territory said it is "not unusual to see drugs wash ashore in the Cayman Islands from time to time." They praised residents for reporting the find. The Cayman Islands and other Caribbean countries and territories are vulnerable as drug transshipment points located along maritime smuggling routes. □

Puerto Rico: Court halts proceedings over gay marriage

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A lawsuit challenging a Puerto Rico law defining marriage as between a man and a woman has been put on hold pending a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court. Several gay couples in the U.S. territory have challenged local laws including those that prohibit same-sex marriage and the recognition of such marriages. The issue of same-sex marriage is expected to go before the Supreme Court this month. The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston said Tuesday it will await that decision before scheduling oral arguments in the Puerto Rico case. The island's Justice Department previously has defended the laws in court, but local Justice Secretary Cesar Miranda said last month that the department will no longer do so. □

Puerto Rico wants quick rescue of power company

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Legislators on Tuesday demanded quicker action to rescue Puerto Rico's public power company, expressing dissatisfaction over the pace of a multimillion-dollar plan to improve its finances. Members of the island's

Senate Commission of Energy Affairs expressed concern the Electric Energy Authority might fall into receivership if the bondholders' debt is not paid soon. "It's very important that we solve an issue that is really hurting the economy of Puerto Rico," Sen. Eduardo Bhatia said. The authority's chief re-

structuring officer, Lisa Donahue, told the commission she will present a first draft by June 1 on how she plans to save the company. "We get one chance to do this right. I wish it could go faster. It can't go faster," she said. "When our report is final, there will be very tough decisions that will require bipartisan support."

The Electric Energy Authority holds nearly \$9 billion in debt and owes investors some \$400 million by July. A bondholder group announced Tuesday that it has offered to extend the forbearance agreement for 30 more days after the government obtained a two-week extension earlier this month. □



Romar Trading presents: Old Parr Tribute



corners of Scotland. The result was a great whisky full of flavor and with the softness that is Old Parr. Mr. Savage describes the Old Parr Tribute as soft with notes of fruits, smoke and wood, a true poem of taste. Mr. Savage hosted two days of trainings with local bartenders, waiters and other guests from the hospitality sector. His visit ended with a lovely launch event where guests had the chance to experience the new Old Parr Tribute. Old Parr Tribute is a tribute to you who enjoys Old Parr,



PALM BEACH - The beautiful scenery of the Mira Solo bar at The Radisson Aruba Resort formed the setting for the launch event of the newest member of the Old Parr family; the Old Parr Tribute, a tribute to a life well lived. For this special occasion Romar had the honor of welcoming Mr. Arturo Savage, Reserve Brand Ambassador for Diageo.

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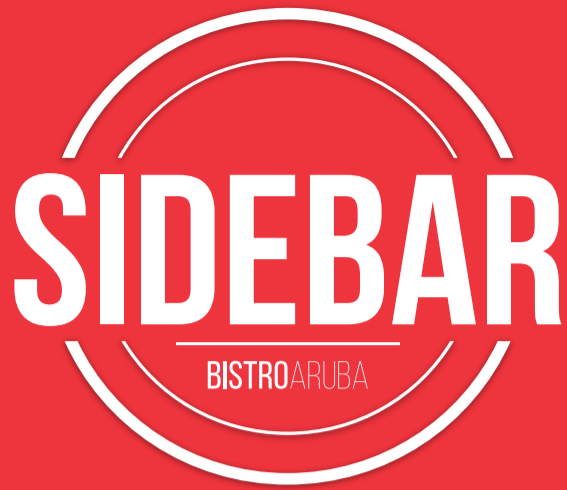
ed from Cuba the dance has its roots steeped in Lat-

in America and has taken a small foothold in Cuba itself for its steamy style and exaggerated contact. The truth of the matter is this dance is classic and when Marie and Rafa came to us demonstrating their love and commitment to their craft we immediately gave them Wednesday Nights to

perform their show of Tango elegance. Come and join Cuba's Cookin' Wednesday evening at 8:00pm for a spe-

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ORANJESTAD - Take a burger of one hundred percent prime Angus beef, add to that the freshest possible extras and tastiest sauces and voila: here is your gourmet burger. Sidebar, a newly opened, great restaurant in the Renaissance Marketplace in downtown Oranjestad, knows how to tease your taste buds with the best burgers imaginable.

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TripAdvisor - January 5th, 2015

Sidebar's signature burgers have been named The Sidebar, The Afterburner, The Goliath, The Texan, The Chaser, The Primal and The Italian Job and we are sure that everyone will be able to find a burger that calls out to them. The burgers come with brie cheese, prosciutto, Cheddar cheese, zucchini, sliced steak, Bourbon bbq sauce, dripping gravy and much more, depending on your order. The best thing is that these gourmet beauties cost less than \$ 15.--, so lunch or an evening out won't break the bank.

Feel love for Sidebar's burgers; they are bursting with taste— try them all and find your personal favorite. Come on down to Sidebar and rock your Wildest West with a fabulously tasty burger that packs a punch with its layers of flavor. And if you are not in a burger mood, then Sidebar has a wonderfully varied menu of all kinds of other options, ranging from vegetarian mushrooms and spinach to a zucchini cutlet to lovely salads, homemade soups, pastas and fish dishes.

Wash your lunch or dinner down with a premium, aged Bourbon or try the ice-cold beers on tap to slake your thirst. You can choose between Heineken, Balashi, Chill, Stella Artois, Miller Light or Presidente. Come inside, at the bar or sit outside on the terrace; at Sidebar there will always be a place for you.



Picture: "THE TEXAN" GOURMET BURGER

At The Trop Club Casino: The Double Down Sports Bar & Grill Presents Mayweather VS Pacquiao

EAGLE BEACH – On Saturday May 2nd, watch Mayweather & Pacquiao settle their rivalry at DOUBLE DOWN Sports Bar & Grill at the Trop Club Casino on FOUR giant 12FT screens with surround sound. As one of the hottest venues in the heart of Eagle Beach, the sophisticated newly renovated

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Scott and Hilary Friedberg Honored at the Marriott Surf Club



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple as Distinguished Visitors at the Marriott Surf Club. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Scott and Mrs. Hilary Friedberg from Briardiff Manor, New York. Scott and Hilary are loyal members of the Marriott Surf Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, watersport



and nightlife, and being on Aruba and staying at the Surf Club is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with the couple's daughter Ms. Julia Friedberg and family friend Ms. Danielle Volpacchio, as well as Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt representing the Marriott Surf Club. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



ROYAL FLUSH

Kansas City Royals' Danny Duffy pitches against the Minnesota Twins during the first inning of the Twins' home opener baseball game, April 13, 2015, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press
Page 20

Royals improve to 7-0 with rout of Twins

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Djokovic eases into 3rd round at Monte Carlo Masters

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

MONACO (AP) — Even when it comes to foreign languages skills, Novak Djokovic wants to be the best.

After strolling into the third round of the Monte Carlo Masters with a 6-1, 6-4 win over qualifier Albert Ramos-Vinolas, the top-ranked Serb told spectators in fluent French how pleased he was with his first win on clay this season.

Djokovic's next big goal is to win the French Open, the only Grand Slam tournament missing from his already impressive collection.

Mastering another foreign language is on his list, too. "French is a very global language, I wanted to know it," Djokovic said Tuesday — in English — during his post-match news conference. "Again, I am still not content with where my level of knowledge of French is, but it's getting there, even though I don't get the grammar right."

Djokovic's desire to excel in French speaks volumes about his devouring ambition. At 27, the eight-time major champion already has 51 titles to his name and has been at the top of the rankings for 142 weeks, one more than Rafael Nadal.

According to his friend Janko Tipsarevic, Djokovic's appetite for victory is infinite.

"If you ask me personally, his goal, even though it seems far from now, is to pass (Roger) Federer," Tipsarevic told the ATP website. "I think that his goal is to be the best player of all time."

Djokovic is first attempting to dethrone Nadal, the "King of Clay."

The Serb is off to his best start since 2011 and hopes he can carry his hardcourt form into the clay season, which will climax at Roland Garros, where Nadal has won a record nine times. But the Spaniard's current struggles might help Djokovic take him off his



Novak Djokovic of Serbia plays a return to Albert Ramos Vinolas of Spain during their match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament in Monaco, Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

Associated Press

Conservatives push for NFL, NBA, MLB franchises in Britain

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Conservative Party says it will push for American football, basketball and baseball franchises to be based in the country.

The pledge features in the manifesto launched by Prime Minister David Cameron on Tuesday ahead of next month's general election.

The NFL and NBA have been playing regular-season games in London for several years. And a study last year by accountan-

cy firm Deloitte, commissioned by the NFL, showed that a franchise in London could generate more than \$250 million a year for the country.

The Conservative Party manifesto says "we will support new sports in the U.K., in particular through greater links with the U.S. National Football League, the National Basketball Association and Major League Baseball, with the ultimate ambition of new franchises being based here." □

perch.

The French Open starts on May 24.

In Monte Carlo, Nadal and Djokovic have been placed in the same half of the draw and could meet in the semifinals. Djokovic, however, is not in a hurry to find him on his path.

"He's somebody that has made history in this sport," Djokovic said. "He's probably, looking at the amount of matches that we played against each other, my biggest rival. He's an ultimate challenger on clay courts. This is where we are right now."

In a match that sometimes resembled a practice session, Djokovic never looked troubled by Ramos-Vinolas, although he dropped his serve once in the middle of the opening set.

The win over the Spanish clay-court specialist extended Djokovic's winning streak to 13 matches following back-to-back titles at Indian Wells and Miami. "I'm really pleased with my performance for my first match on clay against an experienced player on

this surface," Djokovic said. "There was a good intensity."

Djokovic, who is up against Andreas Haider-Maurer in the next round, showed no problem adjusting to the dust and raced to a 4-0 lead in the opening set, perfectly reading Ramos-Vinolas' serve to break him twice.

A double-fault and two consecutive backhand mistakes in the next game, however, gave some hope to his opponent, who could not build on the momentum and dropped his serve immediately after he broke.

After a shoulder injury sidelined him for three months and a loss on his return at Indian Wells in March, reigning U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic won his first match this year with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 defeat of Florian Mayer. Fifth-seeded David Ferrer joined Djokovic in the third round when Victor Estrella Burgos retired while trailing 6-2, 2-0.

Ninth-seeded Grigor Dimitrov came out on top of a tight first-round match with

Fernando Verdasco 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Also, Gael Monfils overcame a shaky start to rally past Russian qualifier Andrey Kuznetsov 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, while 10th-seeded Gilles Simon and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga also advanced in straight sets. The 14th-seeded Monfils, who recently returned to the tour after a knee injury, struggled with his serve early before finding his range. Monfils' display on the Country Club's center court was not as flashy as his green-and-yellow outfit. But despite the numerous unforced errors and the erratic tennis, the Frenchman was satisfied.

"I often struggled at this tournament. It's always a difficult period of the year for me, and I'm really happy I got through this one," Monfils said. "I've lost similar matches here before." Wild-card entry Lucas Pouille also advanced and will next face eight-time champion Nadal, while Juan Monaco will be up against Stan Wawrinka after defeating Jiri Vesely 6-4, 6-2. □

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Rockies spoil San Francisco's home opener

ROCKIES 2, GIANTS 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Eddie Butler outdueled fellow rookie Chris Heston and the Colorado Rockies spoiled San Francisco's latest World Series championship celebration at the Giants' home opener.

Troy Tulowitzki, back in the lineup after a day off, hit an RBI single in the fourth inning against Heston (1-1). San Francisco raised its third World Series winning flag in five years before the game.

Butler (1-0) tossed 5 1-3 innings of five-hit ball, walking six. Rafael Betancourt struck out two in a perfect ninth for his first save since August 2013.

PIRATES 5, TIGERS 4

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Gerrit Cole shut down baseball's top-hitting team, allowing one run in six-plus innings as the Pittsburgh Pirates handed the Detroit Tigers their first loss of the season.

The Tigers were trying to match the 7-0 start set by the 1984 club that went on to win the World Series.

Cole (1-0) struck out eight and walked two while giving up three hits in the Pirates' home opener. Josh Harrison, Pedro Alvarez and Corey Hart homered for Pittsburgh. Anibal Sanchez (1-1) surrendered five runs in 6 1-3 innings. Miguel Cabrera went 2 for 4 with an RBI double.

METS 2, PHILLIES 0

NEW YORK (AP) — National League Rookie of the Year Jacob deGrom and the New York Mets won their home opener, shutting down Philadelphia.

DeGrom (1-1) gave up seven hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Daniel Murphy doubled in the fourth, advanced on a flyout and scored when Juan Lagares got a hit that Aaron Harang (1-1) knocked down with his glove and couldn't throw to first in time.

BREWERS 5, CARDINALS 4



San Francisco Giants shortstop Brandon Crawford (35) reaches back to grab a ball hit by Colorado Rockies DJ LeMahieu in the top of the ninth inning on Monday, April 13, 2015, on Opening Day at AT&T Park between the San Francisco Giants and Colorado Rockies in San Francisco

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Matt Garza overcame five walks to earn his first career win in St. Louis and Carlos Gomez had two hits and an RBI for the Milwaukee Brewers.

Adam Wainwright (1-1) gave up five runs — three earned — in seven innings.

Francisco Rodriguez earned his first save, helping himself with the defensive play of the game when he reached behind his head and snared Jhonny Peralta's liner leading off the ninth.

Garza (1-1) allowed two runs —

one earned — in 5 2-3 innings to win for the first time in six career starts in St. Louis. He entered 0-2 with a 6.95 ERA.

CUBS 7, REDS 6, 10 INNINGS

CHICAGO (AP) — Jorge Soler homered twice and Arismendy Alcantara had a game-ending RBI single in the 10th inning to lift the Cubs over the Reds.

Chris Coghlan had three hits and a homer as the Cubs came back from three runs down to overcome a rough start by Jon Lester, who gave up six runs and 10 hits

in six innings as his ERA ballooned to 7.84.

Brandon Phillips had four hits for the Reds, while Marlon Byrd and Jay Bruce each drove in two runs. Hector Rondon (1-0) gave up two hits in the top of the 10th to pick up the win.

Manny Parra (0-1) was the loser.

BRAVES 3, MARLINS 2

ATLANTA (AP) — Alberto Callaspo hit a tiebreaking single in Atlanta's two-run fifth inning and the Braves held off Miami in the ninth to beat the Marlins in a game slowed by two rain delays. Shelby Miller (1-0) allowed one run in five innings as the Braves bounced back from their first loss and handed the Marlins their sixth defeat in seven games. Jason Grilli gave up a run-scoring single in the ninth but earned his fourth save. Matt Latos (0-2) gave up three runs, two earned, on five hits and three walks in four-plus innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 8, PADRES 4

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Ender Inciarte hit two doubles and a triple and drove in a career-high four runs to lead the Diamondbacks to a victory against the Padres.

Inciarte hit a two-run double in the second, when the Diamondbacks scored four unearned runs on five hits off Andrew Cashner (0-2) and an error, and a two-run triple in the three-run eighth to help break it open. He also doubled and scored in the seventh.

Rubby De La Rosa (2-0) held San Diego to three runs and six hits in six innings for his second straight win.

In other NL games it was N.Y. Mets 2, Philadelphia 0; Pittsburgh 5, Detroit 4; Boston 9, Washington 4; Milwaukee 5, St. Louis 4; Colorado 2, San Francisco 0; Atlanta 3, Miami 2; Chicago Cubs 7, Cincinnati 6, 10 innings; Arizona 8, San Diego 4; and L.A. Dodgers 6, Seattle 5, 10 innings. □

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Royals remain unbeaten with romp over Twins

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Kansas City Royals became the only unbeaten team in MLB as Danny Duffy pitched into the seventh inning and Kendrys Morales homered in a 12-3 romp over Minnesota, spoiling the Twins' home opener Monday.

The defending American League champions improved to 7-0. It's the second-best start in Kansas City's history, behind the 2003 club that won nine in a row to begin the season. Detroit, which had been the only other undefeated team in MLB, lost 5-4 at Pittsburgh earlier in the day. Duffy (1-0) went 6 1/3 innings, giving up three runs. The Twins lost their fourth straight opener. Trevor May (0-1) in the second inning into the upper deck.

RED SOX 9, NATIONALS 4
BOSTON (AP) — Mookie Betts hit a three-run homer, jumped to take away a home run from Bryce Harper and stole two bases on the same pitch, leading the Boston Red Sox over Washington in their home opener. Rick Porcello (1-1) won his Fenway Park debut, allowing four hits in eight innings. Ryan Zimmer-



Kansas City Royals' Alex Rios looks out at Minnesota Twins pitcher J.R. Graham after being hit on the wrist during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Monday, April 13, 2015 in Minneapolis. The Royals won 12-3.

Associated Press

man and Danny Espinosa homered off Porcello. The Red Sox rolled to an 8-0 lead after three innings against Jordan Zimmermann (1-1).

Ortiz homered in the sixth.
RAYS 2, BLUE JAYS 1
TORONTO (AP) — Jake Odorizzi pitched eight impressive innings and the Rays scored on two bases-loaded walks by R.A. Dickey to beat the Blue Jays. Odorizzi (2-0) allowed one run and two hits, improving to 2-0 with a 2.00 ERA in four career starts against the Blue Jays. The right-hand-

er set down the final eight batters he faced before Brad Boxberger finished for his third save.

After Desmond Jennings and Allan Dykstra singled to begin the fourth, Dickey (0-1) retired the next two batters but then walked three in a row, including 3-2 passes to David DeJesus and Steven Souza. Dickey allowed two runs and three hits in six innings, walked five and struck out six.

YANKEES 6, ORIOLES 5
BALTIMORE (AP) — Stephen Drew delivered a pinch-hit

grand slam in the seventh inning, and the Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles for their first winning streak of the season.

Down 4-2, the Yankees loaded the bases with two outs before Drew connected on a 3-1 pitch from Tommy Hunter (0-1). It was his second homer in two games and New York's first pinch-hit slam since Jorge Posada did it in 2001 against the Orioles. Drew was batting for Brett Gardner, who hurt his right wrist in the first inning after being hit by a pitch from Wei-Yin Chen.

Adam Jones had three hits, including a home run, for Baltimore. Jones is 10 for 14 with three homers and seven RBIs in his last four games. Michael Pineda (1-0) gave up five runs and nine hits with nine strikeouts in 6 1-3 innings for the Yankees.

ATHLETICS 8, ASTROS 1
HOUSTON (AP) — Billy Butler hit a three-run homer and Marcus Semien and Brett Lawrie connected to back a solid start by Scott Kazmir and give the Athletics a win over the Astros. Kazmir (2-0) allowed three hits and one run while striking out eight in six innings.

Jose Altuve had three hits of Houston's five hits, including a solo home run in the fourth inning.

Houston starter Scott Feldman (0-2) yielded 10 hits and eight runs — seven earned — in five innings for the loss.

ANGELS 6, RANGERS 3
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Collin Cowgill and David Freese each hit two-run homers in the fifth inning for the Angels, who rallied from an early deficit to beat the Rangers.

Matt Shoemaker (2-0) was down 3-0 after the first, but pitched into the seventh without allowing another run. He won his ninth consecutive decision over a 10-game stretch.

Both homers by the Angels off Ross Detwiler (0-2) came with runners on base after walks. Cowgill's first of the season tied the game at 3, and Freese's third made it 5-3.

DODGERS 6, MARINERS 5, 10 INNINGS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Alex Guerrero hit a bases-loaded single with two outs in the bottom of the 10th inning, completing the Dodgers comeback from a four-run deficit for a victory over the Mariners. □



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Pelicans, Thunder keep NBA playoff hopes alive

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Anthony Davis had 24 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks to move the New Orleans Pelicans one step closer to a playoff berth with a 100-88 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Monday.

Tyreke Evans added 22 points and five assists and Eric Gordon scored 22 for the Pelicans (44-37). They only need one more win — or an Oklahoma City loss — to clinch a playoff spot in the rugged Western Conference. They have the same record as Oklahoma City, but hold the tiebreaker heading into the season finale Wednesday against San Antonio.

Zach LaVine had 24 points, seven assists and five rebounds for the Timberwolves. After the New York Knicks beat Atlanta on Monday, the Wolves now have the worst record in the NBA.

THUNDER 101, BLAZERS 90
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Russell Westbrook scored 36 points as the Thunder beat the Trail Blazers to keep their playoff hopes alive.

Westbrook picked up his 16th technical at Indiana on Sunday, which would have been an automatic one-game suspension. It was rescinded on Monday, allowing him to play in a critical game for the Thunder.

Enes Kanter added 27 points and 13 rebounds for the Thunder, who would have been eliminated from the Western Conference playoff race with a loss.

Meyers Leonard scored a career-high 24 points for Portland. The Trail Blazers, who already were locked into the No. 4 playoff spot in the West, were without injured starters LaMarcus Aldridge (left foot sprain) and Arron Afflalo (right shoulder strain).

WARRIORS 111, GRIZZLIES 107

OAKLAND, California (AP)

— Klay Thompson scored 26 of his 42 points in a sensational second quarter as the Warriors beat the undermanned Grizzlies.

Thompson finished 15 of 21 from the floor, including 8 of 10 from 3-point range, to help the top-seeded Warriors tune up for the NBA playoffs with another impressive performance.

Golden State led by 32 points in the third quarter before resting its regulars. The Grizzlies slipped to sixth in the Western Conference standings, a game behind San Antonio and Houston in the Southwest Division.

All-Star center Marc Gasol (sprained left ankle) and forward Jeff Green (lower-back tightness) played through injuries, while point guard Mike Conley (sprained right foot) and swingman Tony Allen (strained left hamstring) sat out.

CLIPPERS 110, NUGGETS 103
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Blake Griffin scored 22 points and DeAndre Jordan had a double-double as the Clippers eked out a victory over the Nuggets, moving Los Angeles into a three-way tie with San Antonio and Houston for the No. 2 playoff seed in the West.

Jordan had 20 points and 21 rebounds — making a pair of clutch free throws with 2:49 to go — and J.J. Redick scored 20 points in their sixth straight win.

Griffin just missed a triple-double, finishing with nine rebounds and eight assists. The Clippers could end up with the second, third or fifth seeds in the West. They play at Phoenix on Tuesday in their season finale.

Wilson Chandler scored a season-high 32 points and Kenneth Faried added 19 points and 17 rebounds for the Nuggets, who have 51 losses and won't be making the playoffs.

BULLS 113, NETS 86
NEW YORK (AP) — Nikola Mirotic scored 26 points and Pau Gasol had 22 points and 11 rebounds as

the Bulls clinched home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs with a victory over the Nets.

The Nets fell into ninth place in the Eastern Conference and will need a win Wednesday and a loss by Indiana in at least one of its final two games to reach the postseason.

Jimmy Butler shot 7 for 10 and scored 17 points for the Bulls, who moved a half-game ahead of Toronto into sole possession of third place in the East. They dominated the Nets for the third time this season.

Derrick Rose had 13 points and seven assists but only played 23 minutes because the Bulls were already too far ahead by the time he would've gone back for the fourth quarter.

CAVALIERS 109, PISTONS 97
CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James returned from a day off to record a triple-double as the Cavaliers got ready for the playoffs with a win over the Pistons. James had 21 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds as the Cavs improved to 33-9 since Jan. 15.

J.R. Smith made eight 3-pointers and scored 28 and Timofey Mozgov had 13 rebounds for the Cavs, who sat James and three other starters in a 117-78 loss at Boston on Sunday.

Kyrie Irving scored 12 points in the first half, but Cleveland's All-Star guard was kept out after halftime with tightness in his right hip. Irving has recently been bothered by an issue with his hip, and the Cavs said they were being cautious with him.

Andre Drummond scored 20 and Caron Butler 19 for the Pistons, who trailed by 26 in the first half.

BUCKS 107, 76ERS 97
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Michael Carter-Williams matched his season-high with 30 points in his first game back in Philadelphia to lead the playoff-bound Bucks to a victory over the 76ers. □



New Orleans Pelicans Anthony Davis dunks against the Minnesota Timberwolves in the half of an NBA basketball game Monday, April 13, 2015, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press



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WILL FERRELL | KEVIN HART

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R

MON-THURS 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
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WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 5:15 | 8:15 | 9:20
FRI 5:15 | 8:15 | 9:20 | 11:15
SAT 2:15 | 5:15 | 8:15 | 9:20 | 11:15
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 5:15 | 8:15 | 9:20
2D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:20 | 7:30
FRI 4:30 | 6:20 | 7:30 | 10:30
SAT 1:30 | 3:20 | 4:30 | 6:20
7:30 | 10:30
SUN & HOL 1:30 | 3:20
4:30 | 6:20 | 7:30

JIM PARSONS | RIHANNA

HOME

PG

3D VERSION
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40
FRI 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SAT 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
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MON-THURS 4:25 | 6:55 | 9:30
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By: Dr Carlos Viana

Finding Balance through Nature

Imagine one medicine that could normalize blood pressure by either lowering or raising your body's blood pressure. How great would it be to have a pill that in the morning gets you going, yet taken at night provides sound restful sleep. Imagine a tablet that increases your mental sharpness, yet calms, relaxes and shuts down your racing mind. Your healthy body has the ability to balance itself while adjusting to changing conditions. An example of this is temperature regulation in a room by a heating or air-conditioning thermostat. In the body, a system controlled by the brain, regulates breathing, metabolic rates, blood-vessel size, and blood-sugar levels in response to changes caused by temperature, hormones, disease and other factors. This ability of the body to find balance is called homeobalance. Without its ability to maintain a balanced body, we become stressed, our resistance falls, sleep eludes us, and we begin an invariable slide into disease. Many people start out with medicine to lower high cholesterol then have to take high blood pressure

medicine and then sleeping pills. The average sixty year old is now averaging nine medicines a day. Interestingly, today's pharmaceutical medicines have their history in herbal medicine. More than eighty percent of drugs today are synthetic replicas of the healing parts of medicine plants. Of the many types of medicine, herbs are a unique category of plants we herbalist call adaptogens. The word adaptogen is used by Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) to refer to a treatment like acupuncture, or a natural herb product that increases the body's resistance to stresses such as trauma, anxiety and fatigue. All herbal adaptogens contain antioxidants, but not all antioxidants are adaptogens. Antioxidants help slow damaging oxidation or ageing of cells. To the skepticism of modern medicine, TCM physicians have acupuncture treatments which are adaptogens. For example, the same acupuncture treatment can be used to either raise or lower blood pressure. Similarly, one treatment can be used for anxiety or over-confidence; depression or over-exuberance. You get the picture. An adaptogen treatment or herb helps the body regulate itself. Knowledge of adaptogens dates back thousands of years to ancient India and

China. Scientific study began in the 40's when Dr. Nikolai Lazarev defined an adaptogen as an agent that allows the body to counter adverse physical, chemical, or biological stressors by raising resistance toward such stress. Raising resistance to stress allows the organism to "adapt" to the stressful circumstances. Like acupuncture treatments, garlic oil can both raise low blood pressure or lower hypertension, lowering the risks of heart disease. Some people worry about garlic odor. Parsley helps freshen up garlic breath is great for bones and is a mild diuretic for those who need this. We can use green tea in the morning to energize our start and then again at night to promote restful sleep. Green tea contains vitamin C, E and B complex, making it a great antioxidant that helps block cancer-causing chemicals, and reduces tumors. Green tea has also been shown in studies to increase metabolism and may aid in weight loss. Green tea now comes in capsules for those on the go. What makes green tea work so well is an amino acid in green tea called L-Theanine. Able to cross the blood-brain barrier, theanine has psychoactive properties. Theanine has been shown to reduce mental and physical stress, and improves cognition and mood.

The Chinese were first to use licorice to treat the liver since it neutralizes liver toxins. Known to stimulate the production of the cortin hormone useful when the body is under mental and emotional stress, licorice also contains a cortisone-like property that has been found beneficial and nourishing on adrenal glands. Historically the only drawback of using licorice is that it can increase blood pressure in some people. One of the sugars found in licorice, glycyrrhizin has been reported in some people to increase blood pressure or cause retention of water in the body. Today, quality licorice root supplements remove the glycyrrhizin and it is identified as deglycyrrhizinated licorice, also known as de-glycyrrhizinated licorice, or commonly referred to as DGL licorice. DGL licorice helps repair the walls of the stomach and intestines significantly reducing the size of gastric ulcers, reducing the recurrence and hastening healing. In our clinic, DGL has shown to be an effective treatment for duodenal ulcers. Another herb known for adrenal support is Rhodiola root that increases availability of energy during the day, but also reduces stressed feelings. It increases endurance, but also, provides greater mental alertness, and provides deep, restful sleep. This great adaptogen significantly speeds up the re-

covery process after illness. Individuals that "burn the candle at both ends" have found supplementing with this herb helpful. Perhaps the best known adaptogen and known for its Chinese medicinal qualities is Ginseng root; this immune system stimulant also increases work capacity. Western medicine recognizes that ginseng increases resistance to stress, increases endurance and is especially known as an aphrodisiac that enhances libido and sexual performance in men. There are many qualities and types of ginseng. Since herbs vary, when choosing an herbal supplement, make sure you look for "standardized" on the label, like "Standardized, Full Potency, Korean Ginseng Root." This means that you are sure about how much of the active ingredient you are taking. Get The Point! Adaptogenic therapy like acupuncture and herbal medicine are unique from other substances. Adaptogens have a normalizing effect on the body and are capable of either toning down the activity of over-active organs or strengthening under-active systems. They are natural substances able to help the body maintain optimal homeostasis or balance. When using these natural adaptogens together, we see amazing results. Could your body, mind or spirit use some balancing? Call to make an appointment. □

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Hackers keep trying new targets in search of easy data

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The health care sector has become the hot target for hackers in recent months, according to researchers at Symantec, a leading cybersecurity company that says it's also seeing big increases in "spear-phishing," "ransomware" and efforts to exploit newly discovered vulnerabilities in software used by a wide range of industries.

After a wave of high-profile attacks on banks and retailers over the last two years, almost 80 percent of the calls to Symantec's global "incident response" service since December have come from health organizations, said Robert Shaker, a Symantec official who oversees the commercial service.

While usually seeking valuable patient and employee data, hackers who target health organizations may inadvertently disrupt computer systems that oversee medication and other life-saving treatments, Shaker said during a press event Monday.

The health sector's vulnerability to hackers was underscored earlier this year when Anthem, the giant insurance firm, reported a data breach affecting up to 80 million customers. But as each sector strengthens its defenses, Shaker said, hackers move on to new industries that may be



In this Wednesday, April 1, 2015 photo, Jeff Salter, CEO of Caring Senior Service, poses for a photo in his company office building in San Antonio. Last December, the network of nearly 30 computers at Caring Senior Service were invaded by ransomware, software hackers use to try to extort money from people and businesses that can't open or use documents, pictures, spreadsheets and other files.

vulnerable. He predicted schools and universities may be the next big targets.

Higher education is "another area very similar to health care," where administrators have historically been less focused on computer security, said Shaker. He noted that university computer networks hold a variety of valuable data, including financial records for students and employees, as well as scientific and medical research.

Several universities have already reported large data breaches in recent months, according to reports compiled by the nonprofit Pri-

vacy Rights Clearinghouse, which says the University of Maryland, North Dakota University and Butler University in Indianapolis have disclosed that hackers obtained personal identifying information for hundreds of thousands of students.

Symantec Corp. is one of the biggest companies in a growing industry that sells software and expertise for defending against cyberattacks — so it has a vested interest in highlighting security threats. But findings in its annual Internet Security Threat Report, released this week, generally echo observations of other industry experts.

Along with an overall jump in the volume of malicious software, Symantec said it's seeing an increase in software designed specifically to siphon information from smartphones and other mobile gadgets. It also counted a surge in certain kinds of "spear-phishing" attacks, in which hackers send deceptive email or text messages to consumers or company employees, hoping they will click on a link that infects their computers with malware. In a particularly dramatic trend, Symantec reported almost 9 million incidents of "ransomware" attacks last year, more than double

the total from 2013. "Ransomware" programs aim to extort money from computer users through various threats. One typical program displays a message that says child pornography or other illegal material has been found on the user's computer, and demands the user pay a fine to avoid prosecution. But in a trend that has boomed over the last year, Symantec says, hackers also use software that encrypts files on the target computer — making them unusable — and demand payment to de-encrypt them.

Some hackers have added extra code to "ransomware" that remains on a computer and even adapts itself to carry out other tasks, such as siphoning valuable information, said Kevin Haley, Symantec security response director.

Hackers are also increasingly using automated software that spams companies or repeatedly probes their networks for vulnerabilities, which means they can launch multiple attacks with less effort, said author and security expert Marc Goodman, who spoke at the Symantec event.

And even as the Obama administration is urging industry officials to share information about defending against attacks, hackers are sharing knowledge among themselves. □

Associated Press

Investigators warn airplane computers could be hacked

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The same Internet access now available on most commercial flights makes it possible for hackers to bring down a plane, a government watchdog warned Tuesday.

The finding by the Government Accountability Office presents chilling new scenarios for passengers. The report doesn't suggest it would be easy to do, or very likely. But it points out

that as airlines and the Federal Aviation Administration attempt to modernize planes and flight tracking with Internet-based technology, attackers have a new vulnerability they could exploit.

A worst-case scenario is that a terrorist with a laptop would sit among the passengers and take control of the airplane using its passenger Wi-Fi, said Rep. Peter DeFazio, an Oregon Democrat on the House

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee who requested the investigation.

"That's a serious vulnerability, and FAA should work quickly" to fix the problem, DeFazio said.

The avionics in a cockpit operate as a self-contained unit and aren't connected to the same system used by passengers to watch movies or work on their laptops. But as airlines update their systems with



In this Saturday, March 14, 2015 photo, a high fence, bottom, surrounds the Narita International Airport as people enjoy watching a plane of the United Arab Emirates' Etihad Airways landing from a viewing spot at Shinonomenooka Park in Narita, east of Tokyo.

Associated Press

Internet-based networks, systems to share routers or it's not uncommon for Wi-Fi internal wiring. □

JPMorgan Chase & Co. first-quarter profit rises 12 percent

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Strong results from JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s currency, commodities and fixed-income trading business lifted the bank's first-quarter profit 12 percent.

JPMorgan, which is the largest U.S. bank by assets, earned \$5.45 billion after payments to its preferred

shareholders. That compares to a profit of \$4.89 billion a year earlier. On a per-share basis, the bank earned \$1.45, compared with \$1.28 a year earlier. Net revenue at the bank was \$24.1 billion, compared with \$23.2 billion in the same period a year earlier.

Wall Street analysts have widely expected banks

to report higher trading revenue this quarter, and JPMorgan met that expectation. Net revenue at the bank's corporate and investment bank rose 8 percent to \$9.58 billion, helped by volatility in currency and fixed income markets. Higher volatility typically means more commissions for banks because investors trade more. The bank's

trading desks brought in revenue of \$5.67 billion, up from \$5.20 billion a year earlier.

The other parts of JPMorgan's investment bank also had a solid quarter. Investment banking fees reached \$1.76 billion, up from \$317 million a year earlier. Advisory fees, which companies pay to an investment bank to help with

a merger or large transaction, were up 42 percent year over year.

JPMorgan's commercial bank had \$61 million in credit losses last quarter, a substantial increase from the \$5 million in losses a year earlier. Most of the losses, JPMorgan says, are tied to a portfolio of commercial loans to oil and gas companies. □

Wall Street mostly higher after rise in oil, mixed earnings

BERNARD CONDON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rising oil prices helped push the stock market mostly higher on Tuesday, but the gains were tiny as investors weighed mixed results from companies reporting earnings.

Stocks fell shortly after the open, then headed mostly higher along with the price of oil. Chevron led the Dow Jones industrial average higher with a 2.2 percent gain.

A jump in JPMorgan Chase after the bank reported strong first-quarter earnings also helped push the blue-chip index higher. Wells Fargo slumped after reporting that its earnings had fallen.

The Dow Jones rose 59.66 points, or 0.3 percent, to 18,036.70. The Standard & Poor's 500 climbed 3.41 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,095.84. The Nasdaq composite fell 10.96 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,977.29.

Stocks have generally been rising this year, but the gains have been modest as several factors from labor strife at West Coast ports, bad weather, a

slump in oil prices and a strengthening dollar have dug into earnings. A stronger currency makes profits earned overseas by U.S. multinationals worth less when translated back to dollars.

Companies in the S&P 500 are expected to report a 3.5 percent slump in earnings per share in the first quarter, according to S&P Capital IQ. That would be the first quarterly drop since the U.S. was climbing out of recession in 2009.

Many financial analysts and stock strategists are shrugging off the profit hit as temporary. But not everyone is convinced, said LPL Financial economist John Canally, and worry is beginning to creep in.

"What will be the further impact of the strong dollar? If you're an energy company, what do you do if oil prices don't rise? There are no answers yet," said Canally. "And that uncertainty is what markets don't like and so trading is choppy."

The impact of stronger dollar was seen in Johnson & Johnson's results released Tuesday. The company

said a stronger dollar was partly to blame for an 8.6 percent drop in its first-quarter profit. The company also cut its full-year profit forecast. Shares fell three cents to \$100.52.

Investors will have more results to mull over in the coming days. Bank of

report this week.

In economic news, the Commerce Department reported that retail sales rose 0.9 percent last month, after declining 0.5 percent in February. The rebound suggests that shoppers are returning after an unseasonably cold winter froze

the March.

"It's remarkable that we've had relatively weak economic data but the market has held up," said Mark Luschni, chief investment strategist at Janney Montgomery Scott. He added, "Investors are willing to look through that."

Among stocks making moves:

— JPMorgan Chase gained 97 cents, or 1.6 percent, to \$63.04 after reporting earnings rose 11 percent in the first quarter. The nation's largest bank by assets was helped by strong results in its currency, commodities and fixed-income trading businesses.

— Norfolk Southern slumped 4.2 percent after forecasting disappointing first-quarter results after the close of trading on Monday. It said demand for coal shipments for export fell. Shares dropped \$4.38 to \$100.49. The railroad company reports results on April 29.

— Wells Fargo fell 40 cents, or 0.7 percent, to \$54.19 after reporting first-quarter earnings fell slightly from the same period a year earlier. □



Jonathan Corpina, right, works with fellow traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Rising oil prices helped push the stock market mostly higher on Tuesday, but the gains were tiny as investors weighed mixed results from companies reporting earnings.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

America, Delta Air Lines and Netflix report on Wednesday, giant money manager BlackRock and Goldman Sachs on Thursday and General Electric and IBM on Friday.

In total, 35 members of the S&P 500 are expected to

sales.

But the rise was less than economists had expected, and it follows other indicators that the U.S. economic growth is slowing. A jobs report released earlier this month showed that hiring had slowed dramatically in

Johnson & Johnson beats Street first quarter forecasts

LINDA A. JOHNSON

AP Business Writer

Johnson & Johnson's first-quarter profit uncharacteristically fell 8.6 percent, hurt by sharply unfavorable exchange rates, a major divestiture and competition to its new hepatitis C drug.

The results from the world's biggest maker of health care products still surpassed Wall Street expectations.

However, Johnson & Johnson reduced its full-year profit forecast, saying it now expects earnings of \$6.04 to \$6.19 per share, down from \$6.12 to \$6.27.

Shares initially jumped 13 percent, but in late morning trading were up 12 cents to \$100.67.

Like many multinational corporations, the New Brunswick, New Jersey-based

company is being pinched by the strong dollar, which reduces the value of products sold in local currencies around the world. The effect was extreme in the first quarter, when currency rates reduced the value of overseas sales by a whopping 13.2 percent, for a net decline of 12.4 percent, to \$8.68 billion. Meanwhile, U.S. sales climbed 5.9 percent,

to \$8.69 billion.

Edward Jones analyst Ashtyn Evans said she anticipates other multinational drugmakers, which report their results over the next couple weeks, to cite similar currency effects, though not as pronounced as at J&J, which gets half its revenue overseas. She noted Johnson & Johnson is expecting currency rates, if they hold

steady, to cut earnings per share by a stunning 60 cents over 2015.

"I think it was a solid quarter for the company," mainly due to the strength of the U.S. prescription drug business, said Evans, who maintains a "Buy" rating on J&J. The maker of BandAids, drugs and medical devices posted net income of \$4.32 billion, or \$1.53 per share. □

Enjoying the Low Life?



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
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The United States is the most powerful colossus in the history of the world: Our nuclear warheads could wipe out the globe, our enemies tweet on iPhones, and kids worldwide bop to Beyoncé. Yet let's get real. All this hasn't benefited all Americans. A newly released global index finds that America falls short, along with other powerful countries, on what matters most: assuring a high quality of life for ordinary citizens.

The Social Progress Index for 2015 ranks the U.S. 16th in the world. We may thump our chests and boast that we're No. 1, and in some ways we are. But, in important ways, we lag.

The index ranks the United States 30th in life expectancy, 38th in saving children's lives, and a humiliating 55th in women surviving childbirth. OK, we know that we have a high homicide rate, but we're at risk in other ways as well. We have higher traffic fatality rates than 37 other countries, and higher suicide rates than 80. We also rank 32nd in preventing early marriage, 38th in the equality of our education system, 49th in high school enrollment rates and 87th in cellphone use.

Ouch. "We're No. 87!" doesn't have much of a ring to it, does it? Michael E. Porter, the Harvard Business School professor who helped devise the Social Progress Index, says that it's important to have conventional economic measures such as GDP growth. But social progress is also a critical measure, he notes, of how a country is serving its people.

"We're not now No. 1 in a lot of stuff that traditionally we have been," said Porter, an expert on international competitiveness. "What we're learning is that the fact that we're not No. 1 on this stuff also means that we're facing long-term economic stresses."

"We're starting to understand that we can't put economic development and social progress in two separate buckets," Porter added. "There's a dialectic here."

The top countries in the 2015 Social Progress Index are Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Iceland, New Zealand and Canada. Of the 133 countries rated, Central African Republic is last, just after Chad and Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka does better than India. Bangladesh outperforms Pakistan. Both the Philippines and South Africa do better than Rus-

sia. Mongolia comes in ahead of China. And Canada wallops the United States.

One way of looking at the index is to learn from countries that outperform by having social indicators better than their income levels. By that standard, the biggest stars are Costa Rica and Uruguay, with New Zealand and Rwanda also outperforming.

"This takes time," said Michael Green, executive director of the Social Progress Imperative, which produces the index. "Costa Rica is an overperformer because of its history."

Green notes that Costa Rica offered free, universal primary education in the 19th century. In the 20th century, it disbanded its military forces and invested some of the savings in education. One payoff: Some surveys have found Costa Ricans among the happiest people in the world.

Then there are the underperformers that do worse than would be expected from their income level. Saudi Arabia leads that list.

The Social Progress Index, now in its second year, might seem a clarion call for greater equality, but that's not quite right. Porter and his number-crunchers found only a mild correlation between economic equality (measured by Gini coefficient) and social progress. What mattered much more was poverty.

Of course, wealthy countries with high poverty tend to be unequal as well. But inequality at the top seems to matter less for well-being than inequality at the bottom. Perhaps we should worry less about reigning in the top 1 percent and more about helping the bottom 20 percent?

On the other hand, one way to finance empowerment programs is to raise taxes on tycoons. And when there is tremendous inequality, the wealthy create private alternatives to public goods - private schools, private security forces, gated communities - that lead to disinvestment in public goods vital to the needy.

In any case, the 2015 Social Progress Index should be serve notice to Americans - and to people around the globe. We obsess on the wrong measures, so we often have the wrong priorities.

As an American, what saddens me is also that our political system seems unable to rise to the challenges.

As Porter notes, Americans generally understand that we face economic impediments such as declining infrastructure, yet we're frozen. We appreciate that our education system is a mess, yet we're passive.

We can send people to space and turn watches into computers, but we seem incapable of consensus on the issues that matter most to our children - so our political system remains in gridlock, even as other countries pass us by.

--Contact Kristof at Facebook.com/Kristof, Twitter.com/Nick-Kristof or by mail at The New York Times, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018. □



Rand Paul, Paul Rand Quiz



GAIL COLLINS
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Rand Paul for president! Wow, we're awash with first-term Republican senators who feel the nation needs their services as leader of the most powerful nation on the planet.

Paul can also perform eye surgery, which is certainly a plus.

What do we know about this man Rand? Well, he's interesting. Among the throngs of Republicans promising to cut taxes, slash domestic spending and repeal Obamacare, Paul is unusual in that he also wants to stop government surveillance, negotiate a peace treaty with Iran, slash defense spending and eliminate foreign aid.

Except - stop the presses! - Rand Paul is also evolving. The freshman senator who once wanted to eliminate all foreign aid, including to Israel, is now a freshman senator who wants to eliminate some foreign aid while leaving more than enough for a certain "strong ally of ours." Also, he has learned that Iran probably can't be trusted. And he now wants to raise defense spending by about \$190 billion.

You could argue he was way more interesting before he started to evolve. But onward.

During a postannouncement interview on Fox News, the new presidential contender was asked about an incident when he "took a shot at Dick Cheney." This would have been a 2009 speech, discovered by Mother Jones, in which Paul basically argued that Cheney had opposed invading

Iraq until he went to work for the war contractor Halliburton.

"Before I was involved in politics!" the new candidate retorted. If you agree with his theory that would mean that nothing Rand Paul said before 2010 counts.

It is true that you can't blame politicians for everything they did when they were young and foolish, but a five-year statute of limitations seems a bit short. I'd accept a rule wiping out anything that happened in college short of a major felony. That would include a former classmate's claim that when she was at Baylor University, Rand Paul and a friend forced her to bow down and worship the god Aqua Buddha.

That's way more diverting than the story about Mitt Romney cutting off a classmate's long hair in high school. But it's off the record. Do not base your opinion of Rand Paul on the Aqua Buddha incident. Really. Forget I ever mentioned it.

Once Paul began sniffing the presidential air, position changes started coming rapid-fire, and he's gotten quite touchy when people point that out. "No, no, no, nononono," he said, accusing NBC's Savannah Guthrie of "editorializing" when she listed several of his recent shifts. It was reminiscent of an encounter he had a while back with Kelly Evans of CNBC. ("Shhh. Calm down a bit here, Kelly.") You might wonder about Rand Paul and TV women, but as we all know it takes three incidents to make a trend. Next time.

The encounter with Evans came after Paul was trying to walk back one of his more interesting policy statements: opposition to mandatory vaccinations. "I guess being for freedom would be really unusual," he said archly, before claiming that he knew of many "walking, talking, normal children who wound up with profound mental disorders" after being vaccinated. This one has since evolved a lot.

Paul has swung to the left on some issues, like immigration. He acknowledges that there's global warming, which he believes should be combated in ways that

do not inconvenience the coal industry. He has stuck to his guns on opposing government surveillance of American citizens, and you can buy a "Don't Drone Me, Bro!" shirt on his website. (Also at the website: \$20 Rand Paul Flip-Flops, although someone on the team apparently noted the irony and changed their name to Rand Paul Sandals.)

And, of course, Paul is still a libertarian. Because he most definitely believes government should get off your backs and stop messing with your lives. Unless you happen to have an unwanted pregnancy, in which case, rather than allow you access to abortion, he is prepared to tie you to a post until you deliver.

Everything perfectly clear? And, now, a brief Rand Paul Pop Quiz. 1) Paul began his presidential announcement speech by telling the people:

- A) "We have come to take our country back."
- B) "We come to take our money back."
- C) "We have come to take our previous statements back."

2) Rand Paul did not get a bachelor's degree because:

- A) He was out partying all the time with the future governor of Wisconsin, Scott Walker.
- B) He was so supersmart that Duke University allowed him to skip right over to medical school.
- C) He was expelled for the Aqua Buddha affair.

3) An avid user of all media social, Paul once twittered that politics doesn't involve enough:

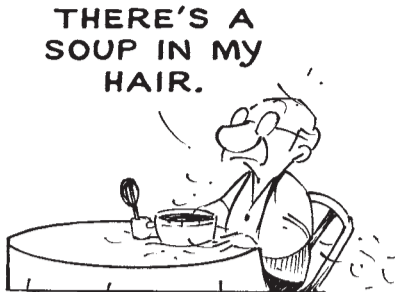
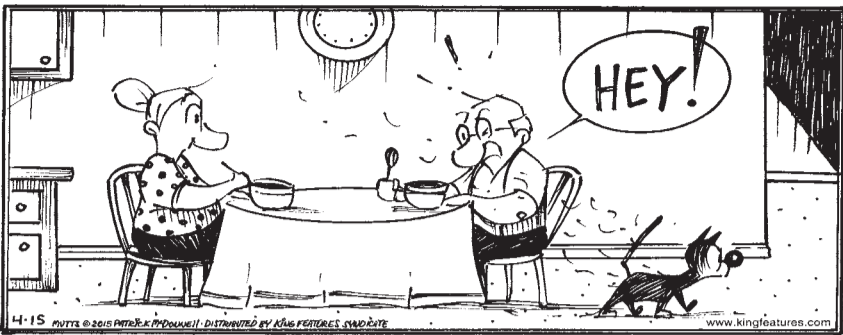
- A) Good ideas for using more coal.
- B) People with an IQ above 90.
- C) Puppies.

4) The Rand Paul presidential campaign slogan is:

- A) "Defeat the Washington Machine. Unleash the American Dream."
- B) "Cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war."
- C) "Beat Hillary. Release the Kraken."

Answers: 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-A. □

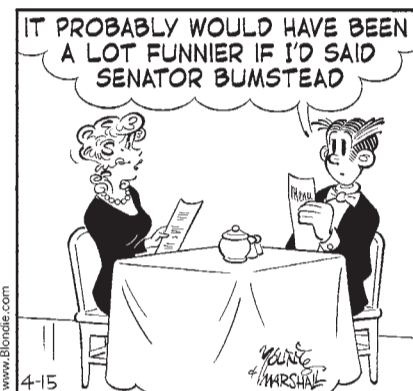
Mutts



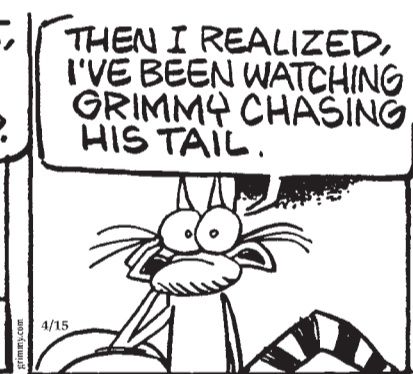
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3		8		9		
	5		1		6		2	
	6						7	
		5	4	6	9	7		
			3		8			
			2		7			
	2	9					3	6
7								9
	1	6	7	9	3	5	8	

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/15

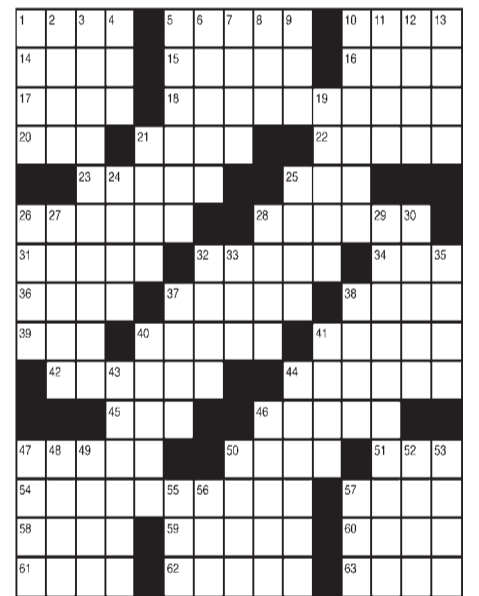
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	6	2	1	8	3	7	5	4
3	5	4	7	2	6	8	9	1
7	8	1	9	5	4	3	6	2
8	3	9	2	6	7	4	1	5
1	7	5	8	4	9	2	3	6
4	2	6	3	1	5	9	7	8
2	4	7	5	9	1	6	8	3
5	9	8	6	3	2	1	4	7
6	1	3	4	7	8	5	2	9

ACROSS

- 1 Present with walking papers
- 5 Lopsided
- 10 Blacken
- 14 Burden
- 15 Friendlier
- 16 Bum
- 17 Machines at banks, for short
- 18 Sociable
- 20 Daddies
- 21 Got away
- 22 "E" on the gas gauge
- 23 Gave employment to
- 25 Primate
- 26 Pit on the moon's surface
- 28 Watery part of the blood
- 31 Legal
- 32 Singer Mariah
- 34 Classifieds
- 36 ___ for; requests
- 37 Wreak ___; cause chaos
- 38 Ginger cookie
- 39 Singer Tillis
- 40 Stories
- 41 Cuban dance
- 42 Turn over a new leaf
- 44 Deep soup bowl
- 45 Wrath
- 46 Puzzling question
- 47 Valuable thing
- 50 Strike with the open palm
- 51 Dieter's concern: abbr.
- 54 Toe dancers
- 57 Ooze out
- 58 ___ in; wearing
- 59 Royal decree
- 60 Drug addict
- 61 ___ out; begins a journey
- 62 One of the Seven Dwarfs
- 63 Make out; see



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/15/15

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

BEE	STABS	PATE		
OATS	ORBIT	OURS		
ARCH	MALTA	PROP		
SHABBIEST	LADY			
	KEEL	INA		
CAREER	SCOURGES			
USERS	SLANT	ABC		
LIPS	STAGS	MUSE		
PAL	PRUNE	DOZEN		
ANYTHING	RELENT			
	OIL	LAND		
OAHU	ADVERTISE			
FLAP	NAIVE	NEAT		
FETE	KNEES	GASH		
ACHE	ASSET	STY		

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4/15/15

DOWN

- 1 Part of a book jacket
- 27 Staircase piece
- 28 Experts
- 29 Rude
- 30 Old saying
- 32 Peaceful
- 33 "___ Maria"
- 35 Reach across
- 37 Race loser of Aesop's fable

- 2 Tiny bit
- 3 Rickety; poorly constructed
- 4 Ames & Asner
- 5 Fisherman
- 6 Exhausted
- 7 Frosted
- 8 Lower limb
- 9 Refrain syllable
- 10 Tubular bells
- 11 Hula ___; 1950s Wham-O toy
- 12 Border on
- 13 Promising
- 19 Compensate
- 21 Worry
- 24 "It is what ___"
- 25 Sir Guinness
- 26 ___ up; say no more
- 38 As ___ as a boil
- 40 Rich cake
- 41 Pointed part of a tooth
- 43 W.C. or Totie
- 44 Comfortably warm
- 46 Location
- 47 Fundamentals

- 48 Mall event
- 49 Bench board
- 50 Make a tiny cut
- 52 Toot the horn
- 53 Nimble
- 55 Blushing
- 56 "Do as I say, not as ___"
- 57 Take to court

Cuba

Continued on Page 27

There is a tension in the streets, despite a rebuilding and reform program spearheaded by a Communist Party provincial official widely lauded for his common touch. The island's largest dissident group operates throughout the city, calling regular demonstrations and distributing flyers and DVD's calling for democratic change.

Many in the Patriotic Union of Cuba cite eastern Cuba's role as the historical birthplace of the country's uprisings, from the 19th century wars of independence from Spain to the revolution that began with Fidel Castro's attack on the Moncada military barracks on a hill overlooking the city.

"Between the west and the east of Cuba, the west has always been better-treated," said Carlos Arnel Oliva Torres, head of the youth wing of the opposition group, which claims to have as many as 4,500 members, most around Santiago.

"The so-called elite of the country has always lived in Havana and this elite has always had more comforts, more economic possibilities," Oliva said. "The east of the country has always had fewer of these sorts of benefits and because of that, throughout history, things have always started here."

Despite Santiago's history, there's no indication that the opposition group's dreams of going national are close to reality. While they don't dismiss local dissidents in the disdainful way many in the capital do, few people in Santiago express interest in joining, even in private conversations.

The government appears to be trying harder than usual to win public approval in Santiago and even residents unhappy with life here say the provincial government has responded to their dissatisfaction with a push to improve conditions. □

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CRUISESHIP

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1st robot into Fukushima reactor stalls, but gets some data

MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The operator of the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant said Monday that the first robot sent inside one of the melted reactors stalled before finishing its work but collected data that indicates a path exists to send robots deeper into the reactor. That's good news for experts designing a robot for a future mission aimed at locating and investigating the residue of the nuclear fuel that melted in the 2011 disaster.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. said the robot stalled after completing about two-thirds of its planned mission Friday inside the Unit 1 containment vessel.

TEPCO spokesman Teruaki Kobayashi said the robot collected temperature and radiation data and images from parts of the platform around the area known as the pedestal below the bottom of the reactor core before it became stuck and unrecoverable. The robot had been intended for only one use because of the high radiation levels.

A second robot mission scheduled for Monday was postponed while engineers investigate the cause of the stalling. Kobayashi said the robot's treads may have become stuck on a grating or in a gap as it moved.



In this Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015 file photo, a remote-controlled robot that looks like an enlarged fiberscope crawls down into the mock-up of a primary containment chamber of Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, during a demonstration for the media at a government facility in Hitachi, Ibaraki Prefecture, northeast of Tokyo.

Associated Press

The 60-centimeter (2-foot)-long, snake-shaped robot entered the containment chamber through a pipe and transformed into a U-shape crawler after it landed on the platform. A 2 1/2 minute edited compilation of images transmitted by the robot, released Monday by TEPCO, showed steam wafting from inside the dark container, lit by a lamp mounted on the robot, as it slowly maneuvered around debris that looked like small rocks and metal parts. The images contained numerous white dots believed to be caused by gamma rays.

Kobayashi said the test also showed the robot tolerated radiation and that the levels were significantly lower than anticipated.

That means robots can last longer and some wireless devices may even be usable, although the radiation levels were way too high for humans to enter the area, even wearing protective gear.

Without more data, it will be difficult to figure out exactly how to safely locate and remove the radioactive debris. Nuclear officials are expected to revise the plant's decades-long decommissioning roadmap in the coming weeks, with more leeway and options in case earlier plans prove unfeasible.

TEPCO plans to send in a different, amphibious robot next year for a further investigation of the three reactors that suffered meltdowns after the 2011 earth-

quake and tsunami.

Computer simulations and cosmic ray examinations have shown that almost all fuel rods in the Unit 1 reactor melted, breached the core and fell to the bottom of the containment cham-

ber.

Because of the damage to the reactors, large volumes of cooling water continue to leak from them, causing contamination and hampering the plant's cleanup process. □

Comet lander's measurements weaken space magnetism theory

FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Whatever caused small space rocks to lump together billions of years ago, magnetism is unlikely to be the reason. Scientists said Tuesday that measurements made by the European space probe Philae, which landed on comet 67P in November, show the comet's core isn't magnetized.

The findings add to scientists' understanding of how comets and even planets formed, because some astrophysicists had theorized that magnetism might have been responsible for aligning and then binding together rocks into larger boulders.

In a paper published online by the journal *Science*, the team led by Hans-Ulrich Auster at the Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany, said their data don't support this theory, though magnetism may play a role at earlier stages of planet formation.

"If the surface was magnetized, we would have expected to see a clear increase in the magnetic field readings as we got closer and closer to the surface," said Auster. "If comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko is representative of all cometary nuclei, then we suggest that magnetic forces are unlikely to have played a role in the accumulation of planetary building blocks greater than one meter (3 feet) in size."

Allan H. Treiman, a senior scientist at the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston, Texas, who wasn't involved in the study, said the results credibly suggest other forces were responsible.

"Auster did not find any magnetic field, with a very sensitive instrument, so it seems unlikely that magnetism in the solar nebula was significant for the collection of meter-sized objects," Treiman said in an email. □

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Recording artist and producer Pharrell Williams, right, unveils his wax figure at Madame Tussauds on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

Industry: Digital music sales match physical for 1st time

LONDON (AP) — Revenue from digital music matched that from physical albums and discs for the first time in 2014, a global industry body said Tuesday.

The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry's annual report said digital and physical sales each accounted for 46 percent of the \$14.97 billion in global music revenues. Income from performance rights and synchronization revenue made up the rest.

The old-fashioned vinyl format has had a renaissance and now accounts for 2 percent of revenues.

Total revenue was down 0.4 percent from 2013, but the group said the overall picture for the industry was positive.

The federation said the rise of subscription music services was driving digital growth, and there was "substantial untapped potential for growth" in the paid-for streaming sector.

"Music companies are charting a path to sustainable year-on-year growth," said IFPI chief executive Frances Moore.

But she said that the industry was missing out on revenue because some platforms including YouTube are exempt from copyright laws applied to music-streaming services like Spotify — despite having many

more users.

Moore said laws should be changed to fix this "value gap."

"It's not something the industry can fix, it's something that government can fix," she said.

YouTube said "we pay hundreds of millions of dollars to the music industry every year, have deals in place with hundreds of independent and major labels around the world, and provide rights-holders with tools to control their copyrighted work." □

Crackle streaming service acting like TV network

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Crackle video streaming service, known best for Jerry Seinfeld's motorized interview series with fellow comics, says it wants to be more like a traditional television network.

Starting next month, the Crackle website will run a constant video stream of programming on a set schedule, its executives said Tuesday. Currently, people can click on Crackle's programming options and stream them whenever they want, an option that will be preserved.

Network chief Eric Berger said that while many Crackle users connecting through smart TVs or video

HBO scientology film proves popular for network

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — If the Church of Scientology was hoping that HBO's withering documentary on the religion's practices would pass by with little notice, that turned out to be a miscalculation. "Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief" has been seen by more than 5.5 million people since its debut two weeks ago. It is likely to wind up being second only to a 2013 movie on Beyonce as the premium cable network's most-watched documentary of the past decade, HBO said Monday. It has been an extraordinary two months for HBO's film unit. The six-part series on billionaire Robert Durst, "The Jinx," was a sensation with its climax reaching nearly 5 million viewers. Durst was arrested for murder on the eve of the series' last episode, in part due to evidence uncovered by the filmmakers. The Church of Scientology ran a full-page advertisement in The New York Times denouncing the film before it ran, questioning whether "Going Clear" would turn out to be like Rolling Stone



In this Jan. 25, 2015 file photo, director Alex Gibney, left, Sara Bernstein, Senior Vice President of Programming for HBO Documentaries, and author/producer Lawrence Wright, right, attend the premiere of "Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief" during the 2015 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Associated Press

magazine's since-retracted story about an alleged sexual assault at the University of Virginia.

"I didn't think we expected this kind of noise and this kind of energy, but we'll take it," said Sheila Nevins, the veteran chief of HBO's documentary unit. "I didn't think it would be this controversial." Director Alex Gibney made "Going Clear," based on the book by Lawrence Wright. Gibney also did "Mea Maxima Culpa: Silence in the House of God," an investigation into sex abuse in the Catholic Church, for HBO.

Although "Going Clear" details church attempts to respond aggressively to people questioning their practices, Nevins said she was surprised at how church lawyers and officials questioned the film and HBO before it aired.

"I really thought they would be smart to keep their mouths shut and let it go by," she said. HBO's Beyonce film was seen by more than 9 million people, and both parts of a 2006 film on Hurricane Katrina reached more than 6 million viewers, according to the Nielsen company. □



This undated image released by Columbus 81 Productions shows comedians Jerry Seinfeld, left, and Michael Richards, former co-stars in the popular comedy "Seinfeld," in a scene from the finale of Seinfeld's web series, "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee."

Associated Press

consoles like the freedom to click on what they want, they miss the "serendipity" of tuning in and being exposed to something new. Crackle is ad-supported

and its video streams are free to consumers, unlike other subscription streaming services like Netflix. The new linear channel gives advertisers a more tradi-

tional option if they are seeking it, and for the first time Tuesday Crackle held a TV network-like event to show off new programming plans to advertisers.

Also unlike some other streaming services, the Nielsen company will be able to provide details about how many people are watching their programming, Berger said.

The new service begins rolling out next month on Roku devices and on other platforms during the summer.

Seinfeld is beginning his sixth season of "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee," and will feature Steve Harvey, Bill Maher, Stephen Colbert and new "The Daily Show" host Trevor Noah in upcoming episodes. □



In this Oct. 28, 2008 file photo, Percy Sledge kneels as he performs "When a Man Loves a Woman" along with the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section at the Musicians Hall of Fame awards show in Nashville, Tenn. Associated Press

Percy Sledge, who sang 'When a Man Loves a Woman,' dies

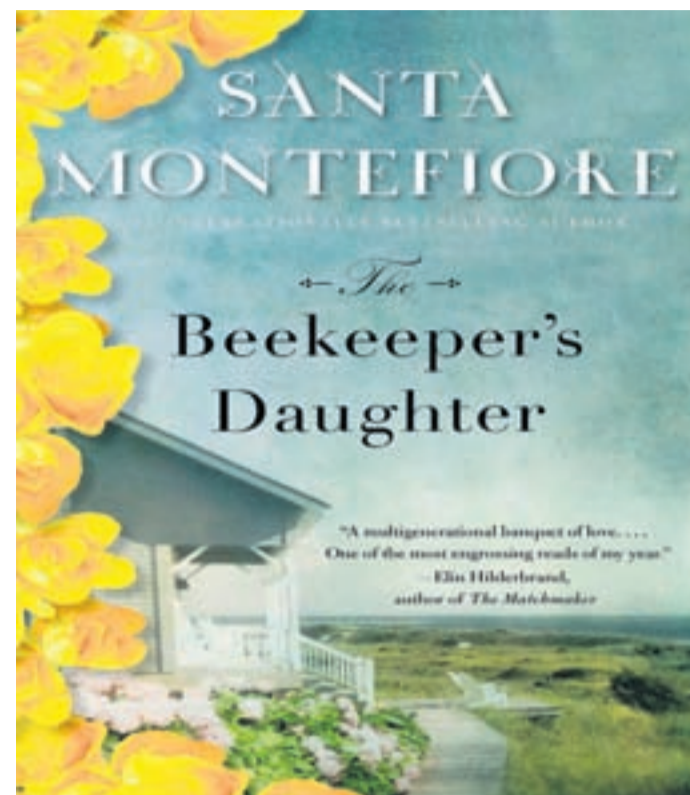
REBECCA SANTANA

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Percy Sledge, who soared from part-time singer and hospital orderly to lasting fame with his aching, forlorn performance on the classic "When a Man Loves a Woman," died Tuesday in Louisiana. He was 74. Sledge died of natural causes in hospice care, according to Dr. William "Beau" Clark, coroner for East Baton Rouge Parish. A No. 1 hit in 1966, "When a Man Loves a Woman" was Sledge's debut single, an almost unbearably heartfelt ballad with a resonance he never approached again. Few singers could have. Its mood set by a mournful organ and dirge-like tempo, "When a Man Loves a Woman" was for many the definitive soul ballad, a testament of blinding, all-consuming love haunted by fear and graced by overwhelming emotion. "When a Man Loves a Woman" was a personal triumph for Sledge, who seemed on the verge of sobbing throughout the production, and a breakthrough for Southern soul. It was the first No. 1 hit from Alabama's burgeoning Muscle Shoals music scene, where Aretha Franklin and the Rolling Stones among

others would record, and the first gold record for Atlantic Records. Atlantic Records executive Jerry Wexler later called the song "a transcendent moment" and "a holy love hymn." Sledge's hit became a standard that sustained his long touring career in the U.S., Europe and South Africa, when he averaged 100 performances a year, and led to his induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2005. It was a favorite at weddings — Sledge himself did the honors at a ceremony for musician and actor Steve Van Zandt — and often turned up in movies, including "The Big Chill," "The Crying Game" and a 1994 Meg Ryan drama named for the song's title. "When a Man Loves a Woman" was re-released after being featured in Oliver Stone's Vietnam War film "Platoon" in 1987 and reached No. 2 in Britain. Michael Bolton topped the charts in the 1990s with a cover version and Rolling Stone magazine later ranked it No. 53 on its list of the greatest songs of all time. Recognizable by his wide, gap-toothed smile, Sledge had a handful of other hits between 1966 and 1968, including "Warm and Tender Love," "It Tears

Me Up," "Out of Left Field" and "Take Time to Know Her." He returned to the charts in 1974 with "I'll Be Your Everything." Before he became famous, Sledge worked in the cotton fields in Alabama and took a job in a hospital. He also spent weekends playing with a rhythm-and-blues band called the Esquires. A patient at the hospital heard him singing while working and recommended him to record producer Quin Ivy. In the 2013 documentary "Muscle Shoals," Sledge recalled recording the song: "When I came into the studio, I was shaking like a leaf. I was scared." He added that it was the "same melody that I sang when I was out in the fields. I just waited out in the woods and let the echo come back to me." The composition of the song has long been a mystery. Some thought that Sledge wrote it himself. Sledge said he was inspired by a girlfriend who left him for a modeling career after he was laid off from a construction job in 1965, but he gave the songwriting credits to two Esquires bandmates, bassist Calvin Lewis and organist Andrew Wright, who helped him with the song. □

Review: A search for true love in 'The Beekeeper's Daughter'



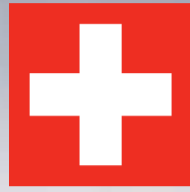
This book cover image released by Simon & Schuster shows "The Beekeeper's Daughter," by Santa Montefiore.

Associated Press

LINCEE RAY

Associated Press
International best-selling author Santa Montefiore writes an epic romance that spans two generations in her new novel, "The Beekeeper's Daughter." Readers are transported back and forth between Massachusetts and England unraveling a timeline that stretches over four decades. It's the story of a daughter's journey to find happiness and a mother's cautionary tale of lost love. It's 1932, and Grace Hamblin lives her charming life. She takes care of the grand estate of the Marquess and Marchioness of Penselwood, along with her father. Her best friend, Freddie, has grown into a respectable young man, and it won't be long before he asks for her hand in marriage. When Grace's father dies, Freddie is the only constant in her life. It makes sense to begin a life with him, working on the estate and planning for a family. But Grace is in love with another man — a man she can never have. Forty years later, Grace's fiery daughter Trixie has

fallen in love with the lead singer of a band. The entire community of Tekanasset Island thinks Jasper is just the type of wild child who will whisk Trixie away with the promise of a thrilling life touring the world. When his brother suddenly dies, Jasper is summoned back to England to take on the family business. He promises to send for Trixie, but Grace knows that day will never come. Montefiore embellishes this novel with exquisite details. The descriptions that portray the fictional island of Tekanasset and its colorful residents come to life with each turn of the page. The English setting is comparably illustrated with great attention to even the smallest elements, including the science of beekeeping. By the time you read the final page, you should be able to jar your own honey. Montefiore has painted a heart-wrenching picture of young love in "The Beekeeper's Daughter." Grace and Trixie both learn that confronting the past is the key to building the future. □



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